

## Four years on to the day, Margaret Tebbit's conference return

# Major fights for £3bn limit on spending

● Mr John Major, the Chief Treasury Secretary, is battling to keep the public spending overshoot below £3 billion

● Mr Paul Channon, the Transport Secretary, paved the way for the privatization of rail and motorways

● Mr Nicholas Ridley and Mr Douglas Hurd face a tough time today in the environment and law and order debates

● Mrs Margaret Tebbit, confined to a wheelchair after the IRA bombing four years ago, was given a standing ovation

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

The Government's bruising public spending battle is reaching a climax in Brighton as the Treasury fights to stop next year's overshoot topping £3 billion and giving the wrong signal to the financial markets about the prospects for conquering inflation.

Mr John Major, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, yesterday began a series of crunch encounters with the main spending ministers, as details emerged of what appears to be one of the toughest expenditure rounds of the Thatcher Government.

The Times has learnt that for the first time ministers have been held to account for the whole of their budgets, rather than solely being exam-

ined on their bids for extra spending over the original allocations.

These totalled between £9 billion and £10 billion higher than the £167 billion total of public spending planned for next year.

The Treasury has reluctantly accepted from the outset that some increase over the planned total was inevitable.

But as Mr Major started seeing ministers in his room at the Grand Hotel, it was clear

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that the Treasury had decided that the excess must not be higher than £3 billion and should be considerably less than that.

But the decision means that there are bound to be serious casualties this week. Unless there is a surprise carve-in by several key ministers, the Star Chamber, the arbiter of unsettled disputes, will be called into action at the end of next week.

Mr George Younger, the Secretary of State for Defence, was said by close associates yesterday to be determined to fight his case to the Star Chamber if necessary.

For the first time it will be under the chairmanship of Mr Cecil Parkinson, the Secretary of State for Energy and a potential candidate to replace Mr Nigel Lawson as Chancellor.

The other members chosen so far are Mr Major and Mr John Wakeham, Leader of the Commons. The remainder will be other ministers who settle with Mr Major this week.

The key meetings this week are thought likely to involve Mr Younger, Mr Kenneth Clarke, the Secretary of State for Health, Mr Paul Channon, the Secretary of State for Transport and Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Secretary of State for the Environment.

Mr John Moore, the Secretary of State for Social Security and Mr Kenneth Baker, the Secretary of State for Education, have still to settle. Mr Clarke inherited a bid from Mr Moore, his predecessor, which is understood to have been considerably pared down, but he is believed to be meeting resistance for his demands for increased capital investment.

Mr Younger is seeking extra funds for ordering three vessels a year to maintain the

surface fleet of 50 frigates and destroyers, and a lively argument is proceeding over which tank will replace the Chieftain at an eventual cost of over £1 billion.

Mr Baker submitted a big bid for extra spending to cover the implementation of the Education Reform Act.

Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, whose extra bid included plans for accelerating the prison-building programme and increasing police manpower, is understood to have reached agreement with Mr Major.

After several years of rigorous adherence to the planned target, the spending overshoot in the pre-election year of 1986 was £4.8 billion; last year it was £2.7 billion.

The Treasury believes that if it gets close to, or does not exceed last year's excess — effectively cutting the overshoot by more than two-thirds — it would be the strongest signal to the markets of how toughly the Government has approached the current negotiations.

One of the biggest unresolved arguments has centred on Mr Channon's bid for big extra spending on roads, building, maintenance and an improvement to local roads.

Half the £7 billion contingency reserve set aside for unforeseen expenditure was immediately exhausted by £1.75 billion extra for local authorities under the rate support grant settlement, around £750 million for the nurses' pay award and some extra £400 million each for additional EEC contributions and social security.

Mr Major, interviewed on BBC yesterday, said the round was tough. It was not a question of being mean or generous but of making sure the taxpayer got value for money.

Mr Hesseine said that the Government was spending less in real terms on the urban programme than it had in 1983. "Let us not allow our faith in the individual and the market to overshadow the reality of inner city life. Only

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## Plan for private roads unveiled

By Robin Oakley  
Political Editor

A network of privately built and operated roads is being planned to ease Britain's traffic congestion.

The Government has also set up studies to privatize British Rail in the lifetime of the next Parliament.

Mr Paul Channon, the Transport Secretary, announced to the Conservative conference in Brighton yesterday that private firms were to be invited to build and own the high-speed rail link between London and the Channel tunnel. They might also be allowed to run services in competition with British Rail.

Mr Channon outlined plans for £750 million to be invested in the London Underground Central Line and for an extra £70 million to be spent on rail carriages by British Rail.

He said he wanted a private as well as public sector in roads. "What a revolution that would be. Why should we make the automatic assumption that bureaucrats — or even politicians — have some God given right to decide what kind of roads we need and where?"

Officials believe that privately constructed roads would lead to the introduction of tolls, which Mr Channon has not ruled out.

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Meanwhile two speeches on the fringe ensured a tough time at the conference today for Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Environment Secretary, who faces demands to protect the Green Belt against building encroachment, and for Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, who is facing his annual order by fire in the law and order debate.

Mr Michael Hesseine, the former environment secretary, called for more money to be spent on protecting the environment and cleaning up the inner cities.

He also reopened the dispute over building on green field sites outside Green Belt policy.

He said that it should not be so easy for the secretary of state to turn down planning appeals, so undermining the will of local authorities to protect their environment.

Mr Hesseine said that the Government was spending less in real terms on the urban programme than it had in 1983. "Let us not allow our faith in the individual and the market to overshadow the reality of inner city life. Only

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Emotional return: Mrs Tebbit with husband Norman is back at the Grand Hotel where on October 12, 1984, they were victims of the IRA bombing. (Photograph: Tim Bishop).

## Paisley thrown out as he shouts down Pope

The Rev Ian Paisley was roughly escorted by security officers from the European Parliament yesterday having been summarily expelled from the chamber by Lord Plumb, president of the European Parliament, for shouting insults at the Pope as he began his address to the assembled Euro-MPs.

The highlight of the Pope's four-day visit to Alsace-Lorraine, was yesterday's invitation by the European Parliament in Strasbourg and the Rev Ian Paisley made the most of a rare occasion directly to confront the symbol of all that he abhors.

His verbal attack on the Pope had been expected and was quickly dealt with, but

was no less effective for that. As the Pope stood to address the chamber, following Lord Plumb's words of welcome, he only managed to utter the first few words of his speech before the familiar

Photograph ..... 24

voice of Mr Paisley, leader of the Ulster Democratic Unionists in the European Parliament, rang out across the chamber as he yelled abuse and unfurled a banner reading "John Paul II - Anti-Christ".

The Pope, wearing an expression of bemused tolerance, waited while Lord Plumb said: "Mr Paisley, I call you to order and ask you to stop this disturbance".

As the yelling continued he

repeated: "For the second time I ask you to stop this disturbance".

A fraction of a second elapsed before, to general applause, he ordered his exclusion from the chamber.

Journalists, who had been forewarned of Mr Paisley's attack, were manhandled by security officers at the exit.

To more applause the Pope started his speech again. Contrary to Mrs Margaret Thatcher's recent ideas on nationalism within Europe, the Pope defended the idea of 1992 as "a far from endangering the identity of the peoples of the Community. It will be better suited to guarantee more fairly the rights."

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## Bank is charged in drugs 'sting'

From Alan Tomlinson  
Tampa, Florida

One of the world's biggest private banks has been charged here with laundering millions of dollars for Colombian cocaine smugglers in the climax of an international "sting" operation involving Customs agents from Britain, France and the United States.

Arrest warrants have been issued for nine executives of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) which is described as the seventh largest privately held financial institution in the world, with offices in 72 countries.

Over the past three days police in the United States and Europe raided bank branches, seized documents and rounded up 40 suspects in the alleged conspiracy in which 90 people have been charged in all.

Mr William Von Raab, US Customs Commissioner, described the two-year investigation which led to the arrests as "the most important money laundering case in US

Banking headache page 9

history and the first time an entire international financial institution and its important members have been indicted".

Three separate BCCI institutions are named in the Tampa indictment, including the Luxembourg-based parent company, BCCI Holdings, plus the London-based firm of Capcom Financial Services Ltd.

Apart from BCCI officials, the rest of the accused, named in two separate indictments, include alleged US and Latin American cocaine smugglers and money launderers, many with colourful aliases such as "The Jeweller", "The Fight Promoter", "Don Chepe" and "Chu-Cho".

But these, said Mr Von Raab, were just "second rate punks who became first-rate millionaires".

The web of deceit allegedly woven by BCCI is said to have allowed millions of dollars in profits from cocaine sales in US cities to be repatriated to Colombia.

Operation C-Case, as the investigation of BCCI is called, was a typical set-up or "sting" in the American parlance.

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WIN £258,000

## Portfolio Accumulator

Yesterday's £4,000 daily prize was shared between two winners. (see page 3). Today's Portfolio Accumulator remains at £258,000. Game: page 29

## Christie's test anger

Lindford Christie, the sprinter who won two silver medals at the Olympic Games in Seoul and who has been named, along with Liz McColgan, athlete of the year by the British Athletics Writers' Association, has demanded an apology from the International Olympic Committee after a leak suggesting he had been found positive in a drugs test.

## Storm havoc

Gales hit coastal areas in south-west England yesterday, with waves up to 70 feet high at Torquay. Report, page 2

## £135m sale

Next, the retail group, is selling its 440 Salisbury's and Zales jewellery shops to Ransons for £135m. Page 25

## Barclays' cards

Barclays Bank, which already issues Visa cards, has received approval to join Mastercard and Eurocard and will issue them next year. Page 26

## TIMES FOCUS

In-flight entertainment is becoming increasingly sophisticated. A Special Report looks at the range. Pages 20-21

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## King's Cross verdicts attacked by relatives

By Paul Valley

Relatives of the 31 people who died in the King's Cross Underground fire attacked the coroner yesterday after the inquest jury returned verdicts of accidental death.

Earlier in court, before the coroner, Dr Douglas Chambers, began his summing up, counsel for the relatives, Mr Matthew Scott, complained that the jury "had not been told the full story". There was



## Irish 'trio found with death list'

By Michael Horsnell

A list of 19 assassination targets was found in the possession of a group of Irish terrorists after two of them were arrested last year on the country estate of Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, a court was told yesterday.

The names and addresses of prominent political, judicial and military figures had been recorded in minute writing on two sheets of cigarette paper.

Winchester Crown Court was told the list was found at a campsite at Woakey Hole, near Wells, Somerset, where two men and a woman were staying. The names of four people — Mr King, Mr Nicholas Scott, MP, Sir Rhodes Boyson, MP, and Major-General Richard Clutterbuck — were marked with asterisks.

Death list, page 3

## Old flag of Russia flies in Leningrad

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent

Evidence that the bushfire of nationalism burning at the periphery of the Soviet Union is beginning to spread to the heartland of Russia emerged yesterday when the first reports of an extraordinary demonstration in Leningrad reached London.

The red flag of the Soviet Union is reported to have been lowered and replaced by the banned red, white and blue Russian national flag before a cheering crowd of up to 15,000.

According to two witnesses who telephoned a British friend, Mr George Miller, chairman of the Association for a Free Russia, the raising of the Russian flag prompted a huge wave of applause which lasted several minutes. The flag has been banned since the 1917 Revolution.

The flag-raising took place despite a heavy presence of

militiamen, who, surprisingly, did not intervene and withdrew. They remained outside the football stadium where the four-hour demonstration was held while speeches, cheering and national songs continued inside.

The Soviet flag was lowered and the Russian one raised by Mr Rostislav Yevdokimov, leader of the Alliance of Russian Solidarists. He said in a speech that the Russian national flag should become the flag of the Russian Republic.

Mr Miller said it was the first time the Russian flag had been raised at a demonstration, and was the first overt display of Russian nationalism at a large demonstration.

Another of the speakers, Mr Julius Rybakov, head of the Democratic Union, called for steps towards multi-party democracy.

## Former MI5 men queue up to publish memoirs

By Michael Evans  
Defence Correspondent

Fifteen former British intelligence officers, from MI5, MI6, GCHQ and the wartime Special Operations Executive, are writing books whose publication in this country could depend on tomorrow's judgement by the Law Lords in the *Spycatcher* case.

The Government knows that if judgement goes against them — permitting British newspapers to report on the contents of the book by Mr Peter Wright, the former MI5 officer — there will be increasing pressure for an official vetting system which would allow books by ex-intelligence officers to be published.

The list of 15 waiting to publish

includes some very senior retired intelligence men. But even if the Lords judgement finds in favour of *Spycatcher*, it is recognized that proposed legislation reforming Section 2 of the Official Secrets Act, due next year, will make it more difficult for former intelligence officers to publish.

The authors include: ● Mr John Day, a former senior MI5 officer who served with Mr Wright, and took over the chairmanship from Mr Wright of the committee set up in 1964 to investigate allegations of Soviet penetration of the Security Service.

● Mr Nicholas Elliott, a former MI6 officer who was head of the London station of the Secret Intelligence

Service.

● Mr Anthony Cavendish, the former MI6 officer who ran into trouble over his private publication of *Inside Intelligence*. Mr Cavendish has now been commissioned to write a biography of Sir Maurice Oldfield, the former head of MI6.

● Mr Desmond Bristow, a former MI6 head of station in Madrid in the 1950's, who in his autobiography names two former colleagues as alleged Soviet spies.

● Mr Leo Marks, a top wartime cryptographer with the Special Operations Executive, who has completed an autobiography.

● Mr Jack Morton, a former MI5 officer, now dead, whose diaries during his period with the Security

Service have been turned into a book.

● Sir Dick White, who served as head of both MI5 and MI6, has had his autobiography ghosted, but there are strict instructions that it is not to be published until after his death.

The other authors include Mr Jock Kane, a former radio supervisor at GCHQ; Group Captain Frederick Winterbottom, head of air intelligence for MI6 between 1930 and 1945; Mr David Smiley, ex-SOE and ex-MI6; the MI6 traitor George Blake; and Mr Greville Wynne, the former MI6 officer.

Mr Anthony Simkins, who left MI5 in 1971 after being deputy director-general for six years, has co-authored a book on MI5 operations in the Second World War.





## NEWS ROUNDUP

## Aids spreading to low-risk groups

The threat of the Aids epidemic spreading to the general population is steadily increasing, the Department of Health said yesterday. About 400 men and women in Britain are known to have become infected heterosexually and the number is growing.

The department's latest figures show that at the end of last month there were 1,794 known cases of Aids, of whom 965 have died. The comparable figures at the end of August were 1,730 cases and 949 deaths.

Most people with Aids or infected with the HIV virus are homosexual or bisexual men, and most infected heterosexually have caught the virus from someone who belongs to a high-risk group.

"The potential for HIV infection spreading into and becoming established in the general, low-risk population is steadily increasing", the department said.

## Eton sued over deal

Eton College is being sued in the High Court for allegedly pulling out of a London land development deal. In 1978 the college leased a plot of land - now valued at about £1,250,000 - in Camden, north-west London, to a development company. The plan was to build a block of 15 luxury flats on it. But by 1984, Mr Justice Mervyn Davies was told yesterday, the Lichenstein-based Alghussein Establishment, which had taken over the deal from the original developers, had still not started work.

## Hostage taken at jail

An instructor was being held hostage by two inmates at Saughton Prison on the outskirts of Edinburgh last night. Mr John Smith of Dunfermline, Fife, was seized in the prison's textile workshop at 9.20am. Negotiations were last night continuing for his release but the prisoners had not made any demands and their motives were unclear. Other prisoners in the 604-inmate jail were returned to their cells and the Scottish Office said the rest of the prison was under control.

## Seal disease on Clyde

The epidemic which has devastated seal colonies in the North Sea has reached the Firth of Clyde. Already 280 bodies of seals have been washed up on beaches as far south as Stranraer and as far north as Gourock on the Clyde estuary. Beaches are worst hit on the Ayrshire coast and on the isle of Arran, where 180 carcasses have been discovered. Mr William Cowan, director of cleansing for Cunningham District Council, said last night that at least one of the dead seals had been confirmed as having died from the virus.

## Enterprise scheme

The fourth annual Community Enterprise Scheme, sponsored by *The Times* and the Royal Institute of British Architects, is launched today by Mr Rod Hackney, the institute's chairman. The scheme, which has attracted almost 500 entries during the first three years, recognizes "imaginative, viable and need-filling" projects which have been instigated by local community groups. Past winners include the Derry inner city project, Londonderry, and the Lightmoor self-build project, near Telford.

## Tornado crash error

A navigational error led to the death of two RAF officers when their Tornado crashed during a low-flying exercise over the Dutch-German border in May, an inquest heard yesterday. A board of inquiry, at the officers' base in Bruggen, West Germany, decided Flight Lieutenant Navigator John Patrick O'Shea and Flight Lieutenant Stephen Wright had failed to recognize how close they were to the ground. Mr John Langham, the Nottinghamshire coroner, recorded a verdict of accidental death on Flight Lieutenant O'Shea, of Bulwell, Nottinghamshire.

## Humber bridge tolls inquiry 'a charade'

The public inquiry into proposals to increase Humber bridge tolls was described as a charade and a masquerade yesterday.

Mr Christopher Cochrane, QC, for Humberdale County Council and Glandford Borough Council, who made the claim, said the Humber Bridge Board had already done a deal with the Secretary of State for Transport who had agreed to write off a substantial part of the £312 million debt when the tolls increase was approved and introduced, most likely next January.

The inquiry opened yesterday at Hull: it is expected to last at least a fortnight.

About £190 million of the debt is expected to be written off if the tolls are increased.

The board's case is that it cannot pay off the debt through revenue and without the toll increase there will have to be a hefty rate levy or additional poll tax for Hull, Beverley and Glandford borough councils in 1994.

## Piper Alpha module is raised from sea

By Kerry Gill

The harrowing task of searching for some of the victims of the Piper Alpha disaster began yesterday after one of the accommodation modules was finally lifted almost 500ft from the seabed.

After the smaller, 180-tonne living quarters had successfully been raised and swung on to a massive crane barge early yesterday, two police officers from Aberdeen flew out to the stricken platform to prepare for the search.

There are 112 men still missing after the explosion, which took place in July, killing 167 people, and it is thought that several of their bodies could be trapped inside the smaller module.

However, it is likely to be several days before a full search of the module can be completed. Engineers will first have to cut through jammed doors and clear away much of the internal

wreckage before the task of recovering bodies can be started.

Yesterday, Mr Alistair Lynn, Chief Constable of Grampian Police, said: "This is a very distressing matter. We cannot expect any immediate result. It will take some time to complete the search."

It is hoped that the larger of the two modules, which weighs 1,100 tonnes and is the size of a four-storey building, will be recovered later this week after delays mostly caused by bad weather.

It will be taken to Flotta in Orkney on a special barge before being searched, and is thought to contain the bodies of almost all the missing men.

It is known that about 100 people were in the main module; they were gathered in its galley, recreation area and central stairwell when the disaster occurred.

Both modules crashed into the sea

and fell almost 500 feet to the seabed as Piper Alpha broke up. The smaller module had accommodation for 33 people.

Police said that the 180-tonne module was upright and appeared to be in relatively good condition considering the circumstances.

More than 40 officers are standing by in Aberdeen ready to begin the search of the main module when it reaches Flotta.

Mr Lynn said that they had been psychologically prepared for the distressing ordeal, but that support from doctors and clergymen would be made available to the police if required.

The police also hope that identification of the bodies will be able to be carried out by scientific means rather than by having relatives undergo the highly distressing experience themselves.

All bodies will be flown from Flotta

to Aberdeen after recovery, which is expected to take several weeks.

Workers will have a huge task clearing the main module which will have suffered appalling internal damage with staircases, ceilings, floors and walls smashed.

A spokesman for Occidental, operators of the platform, said that they too were offering rescue workers psychological support if needed, and that they had already been briefed on the conditions they would probably expect to find inside.

"We are relieved that we have reached this stage, but we are aware that the hardest part is still to come", he said.

The weather in the North Sea has become worse with seas reaching 15 feet and winds gusting up to Force Seven, but Occidental are hoping for a "weather window" to enable them to raise the main module just before the weekend.

## Two on drug money charge

By Mark Souster

Two City of London businessmen were remanded on bail until November 8 at Guildhall Magistrates' Court yesterday, charged with "laundering" money from the proceeds of international drug trafficking. Asif Abdul Baazka, aged 38, a banker, of Highfield Avenue, and Syed Ali Akbar, aged 44, of Basing Hill, both in Golders Green, north-west London, were jointly charged that between May 27 and October 10 this year in London and elsewhere they were concerned in an arrangement whereby retention or control, by or on behalf of others, of proceeds of drug trafficking was facilitated, knowing or suspecting that those persons had carried out or benefited from drug trafficking contrary to Section 24(1) of the Drugs Trafficking Act 1986.

Bail was granted on condition that sureties totalling £300,000 for Mr Akbar and £225,000 for Mr Baazka were provided, and that both men lived at their homes and surrendered their passports.

During the 45-minute hearing, the magistrates were told that Mr Baazka, married with two children, was the manager of the corporate unit in the London office of a bank. The two men were arrested in a customs and excise operation.

Asif Baazka was charged with committing the offence on a date on or between May 27 and October 10 this year. Syed Akbar was charged with committing the offence on a date between September 1 and October 9 this year.

## Boycott of Ulster festivities

By Jamie Dettmer

A political dispute erupted in Northern Ireland yesterday after a number of civil dignitaries from British councils reversed their decisions to attend Belfast's centenary celebrations.

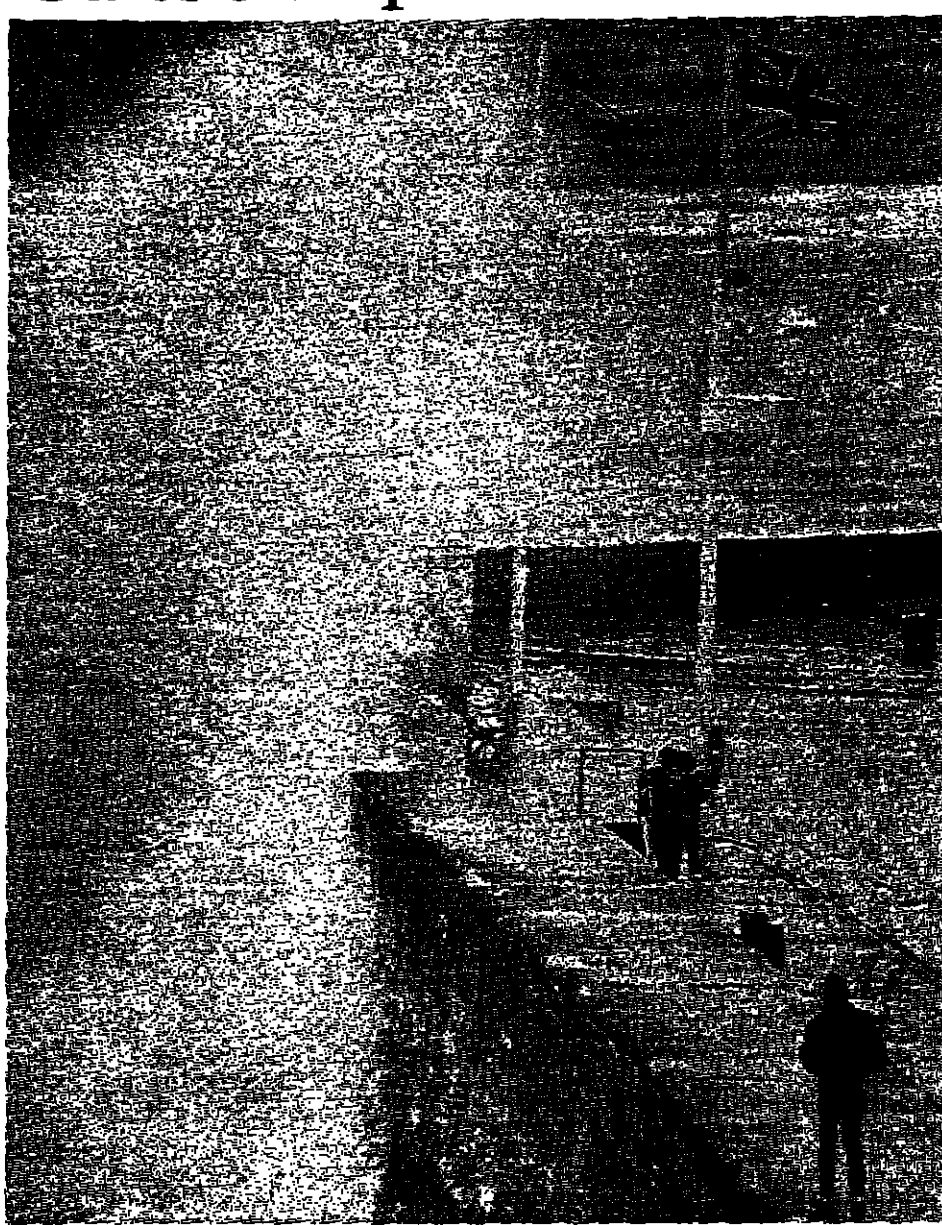
The withdrawals came after accusations from the Social Democratic and Labour Party that the planned celebrations were one-sided and "exclude all recognition of a Catholic or nationalist community in Belfast".

A number of councils including Birmingham have told Mr Nigel Dodds, Belfast's Unionist mayor, that they will not be coming for the highpoint of the celebrations next weekend.

Last night Mr Dodds said the SDLP was trying to "humiliate the Protestant population".

Twenty-eight soldiers serving with the Ulster Defence Regiment in Northern Ireland have been honoured by the Queen, it was announced yesterday. For security reasons they will not be named.

## Gales sweep the South-west



Huge waves breaking over the sea front in Torbay, Devon, yesterday as gales struck coastal areas in the South-west (Andrew Morgan writes). The Meteorological Office dealt reports that its forecasting is still vulnerable because its new £5 million US-made computer is still not fully operational.

The office will hold a briefing today to list its improvements, four days before Sunday's first anniversary of the near-hurricane in the South which claimed 19 lives and caused £1 billion damage. Yesterday's gales brought 70 ft waves and extensive flooding in Devon and Cornwall. Gales are forecast today for the north-east coast of England.

Dr Peter Ryder, deputy director of forecasting services at the Met Office headquarters in Bracknell, Berkshire, said that the American ETA-10 from the Control Data Corporation had always been planned to be operational next spring to replace the present Cyber 205 and

acceptance trials were still being carried out. "Only when we are convinced that the new computer is stable would we turn off the Cyber 205", he said. The new computer will enable forecasters to run computer models of the atmosphere with a higher resolution and improve forecasting. An extra daily run on the present computer, making a total of three, should also help forecasting. New emergency procedures worked out with the Home Office are also at an advanced stage and should be fully operational by next year, Dr Ryder said. "We have put together a programme which acts upon the recommendations from reports after last year's storms".

The future of an ocean weather ship off Ireland, threatened through lack of resources, has been secured in an Anglo-Irish deal worth about £1 million. Extra kmays are being placed in the Channel and to the south-west of the UK, in a joint venture with the French.

## Universities may charge extra fees

By Sam Kiley, Universities Reporter

Britain's most popular universities are being encouraged to "go it alone" and charge additional fees. The Government, which has ruled out any increase in the amount spent on higher education, is insisting that the universities must raise any extra cash themselves.

The extra funds would be raised by a surcharge on the fees paid by local authorities by asking the student, parents, or industrial sponsors to pay "an extra few hundred pounds" for his education. That would avoid the claim that the extra charges were inspired by the Government.

Mr Robert Jackson, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Education and Science, has made it clear that universities and polytechnics could educate more students for less money. No extra finance will be available.

Ministers believe that universities and polytechnics will be "put on their mettle" if such a scheme were introduced because it would increase competition for students.

A senior official from the Department of Education and Science said last night: "We realize that there might be a need to provide some kind of incentive for the scheme to get off the ground, but the logic of the idea is inescapable. If a university has 10,000 students and charges each an extra £500 - the price of a second-rate skiing trip - it can raise an extra £5 million a year."

"This could be used to finance extra students above the number the University Grants Committee agree to pay for, as well as provide an income to finance capital investment".

The Government has committed itself to publishing a White Paper on "top-up" loans for student maintenance before Christmas, and it is understood that, although there will be a ceiling on the amount a student can borrow,

the universities recently accepted that it is necessary to seek finance for teaching and research in addition to what the Government supplies through the grants committee, but think the new proposals are unlikely to work.

Professor Anthony Kelly, vice-chancellor of Surrey University, said yesterday: "I do not think that many courses are so unique that students would not simply apply elsewhere."

Dr John Ashworth, vice-chancellor of Salford University, said such a scheme would be "deeply divisive" and encourage students to apply for places based on non-educational criteria.

## Hinkley Point inquiry

## Big blackout 'minute away'

By Pearce Wright

Science Editor

Britain's worst peace-time power blackout was averted by 60 seconds according to evidence to be presented to the Hinkley Point C public inquiry today by experts from the Central Electricity Generating Board.

The first details made public of a breakdown, known as the Sundon incident, describe circumstances in which the whole of the south of England was within seconds of losing its electricity supplies.

The event is outlined in a technical paper submitted by Mr Eric Euston, head of the System Development Branch of the board, on which he will be cross-examined today by Mr Michael Barnes, QC, inspector to the inquiry, and by objectors to proposals to build a 1,200 megawatt pressurized water reactor, PWR, nuclear power station costing £1.5 billion, on the Somerset

coast at Hinkley Point.

The description of the breakdown says part of the 400kV supergrid was disrupted by lightning on 20 May, 1986, during storms. It caused "circuit tripping" at the Sundon substation in Bedfordshire.

The board's experts will argue that the incident underlines the need for building the new station at Hinkley Point because of the vulnerability of the electricity supply system when it has to depend on a sudden increase in the mass transfer of power from the big stations in the North and Midlands to the South.

The Sundon lightning strike happened when three supergrid connections from the Midlands to the South and other circuits were disconnected for maintenance.

The 10 main links to the South were suddenly reduced to four. Voltages began to fall throughout the South to levels where power engineers were,

for safety reasons, within seconds of disconnecting all customers.

The situation was rescued by the speed with which operators brought 1,000 megawatts of emergency gas turbine generators into operation.

The transfer of ownership of nuclear power stations from the public to the private sector will have an influence on the decommissioning of old plant, Mr John Collier, chairman of the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority, told an international conference yesterday in London.

After the end of the operating life of a nuclear station, a private company would wish to maintain it in a safe condition until the last stage of dismantling in 100 years' time, he said.

A laboratory inside the Sellafield nuclear reprocessing complex in Cumbria has been contaminated with plutonium, British Nuclear Fuels said yesterday.

## Friends in tribute to Russell Harty

By David Cross

Several hundred friends and colleagues of Russell Harty, who died in June aged 53 after a long battle against hepatitis, yesterday remembered the television personality in a style which he would have relished.

In the words of Ned Sherrin, the television entertainer who shared his sense of irreverent humour: "Russell would have liked to have done it (his memorial service) himself. We are not here to cry, we are here for our own reasons." But there were no commitments stating that "Thou shalt not applaud", nor that "Thou shalt not laugh".

Laugh they did, to the rafters of Wren's neo-classical masterpiece, St James's Church in Piccadilly, London, as they paid tribute to him in a celebration of his life and work.

They also remembered the private anguish, which had

tortured him, particularly during the final months of his life. Mr Alan Bennett, the playwright and close friend since Oxford days, and Miss Sue Lawley, the television presenter, recalled how attacks on him had wounded.

Miss Lawley, a close friend for many years, said that Mr Harty possessed "a keen perception of what made people tick".

Mr John Birt, deputy director general of the BBC, said that Mr Harty was a man who came to "prefer life at Rose Cottage in Giggleswick to the glamour and the 'fortunes of fame'." Prebendary Norman McCarty, who conducted the service, spoke of Harty's "sense of fun and hard work, his style and originality".

The service included a number of works by seventeenth and eighteenth century composers.

Memorial service, page 16

"STAYING AT THE MARRIOTT ISN'T BENDING CORPORATE RULES, IT'S USING CORPORATE RULES, I EXPLAINED."

"It's actually on an island," I said, describing the Cairo Marriott. "It's a former palace of Ismail Pasha. I always stay there when I'm in Cairo."

Charlie looked at me as if it was out of the question for him. It was odd because the Charlie I know has never been one to compromise. Maybe it was because he was still treading carefully at his new company.

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"\*115 U.S. dollars came the answer."

"There you go Charlie, we'll meet as planned."

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## Insurance firm quits the South

By Tim Jones, Employment

Affairs Correspondent

One of Britain's leading insurance companies announced yesterday that it is moving part of its operations from the South-east because of increasing difficulties over accommodation and recruitment.

The move, by the National Provident Institution, confirms a growing trend among companies to abandon the "Golden Triangle" and move to where the lifestyle is better and money goes further.

NPI is to move its group pensions and executive pensions sections from Tunbridge Wells in Kent to Cardiff, creating up to 500 jobs.

High house prices and excessive rates are cited as reasons why companies are using the freedom gained through new technology to leave London and the Home Counties.

So far this year, 19 organizations have moved out of London and at least a further 22 moves are planned. Along the M4 corridor, leading to Bristol and Wales, office costs diminish from £48 a square foot in the City to £2.75 in Newport.

The NPI move is one of the most important in the initiative taken by Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Wales, backed up by the Welsh Development Agency, to make south-east Wales Britain's next financial centre.

By the Times, 1988

London 01-499 0281

By Richard Evans, Media Editor

The future of Channel 4 is likely to be unresolved by the Government's broadcasting White Paper, to be published in a month.

Instead ministers may include various options but leave a final decision to the Broadcasting Bill, to be introduced to Parliament late next year at the earliest. The Cabinet sub-committee, which is due to finalize the White Paper after the Conservative conference, is expected to confirm that the Channel 4 issue will remain undecided and so allow 12 months of lobbying.

Channel 4 and the Welsh fourth channel are funded by commercial television companies which pay 17 per cent of their previous year's

advertising revenue - and in return keep the station's revenue. Channel 4 chiefs say this secure funding (£181 million this year) is essential to safeguard the station's distinctive programming.

The Treasury and the Home Office favour a change, Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, has suggested floating off Channel 4 or putting it out to competitive tender. The Home Office favours a non-profit making trust to sell its advertising.

With the Government committed to broadcasting reform, the Cabinet sub-committee is also expected to confirm changes to the transmitting system.

The BBC and IBA share more than 50 television transmitting sites and

820 relay stations. Both use many of the 112 radio transmitting sites. Rentals paid to the IBA for transmitting programmes are its main source of money.

However, ministers are understood to favour introducing competition to make the system cheaper.

Meanwhile Home Office sources confirmed yesterday that the Government is expected to allow applicants without studios or large production staffs to apply for commercial TV franchises.

The plan for "publisher-contractors" was recommended by the IBA in April and is based on the success of Channel 4 which commissions all its programming from outside producers. The IBA said

publisher-contractors would stimulate the independent production sector. Government acceptance of the idea will increase pressure on ITV companies to reduce costs when they bid for renewal of their franchises in the 1990s against applicants without large salary bills.

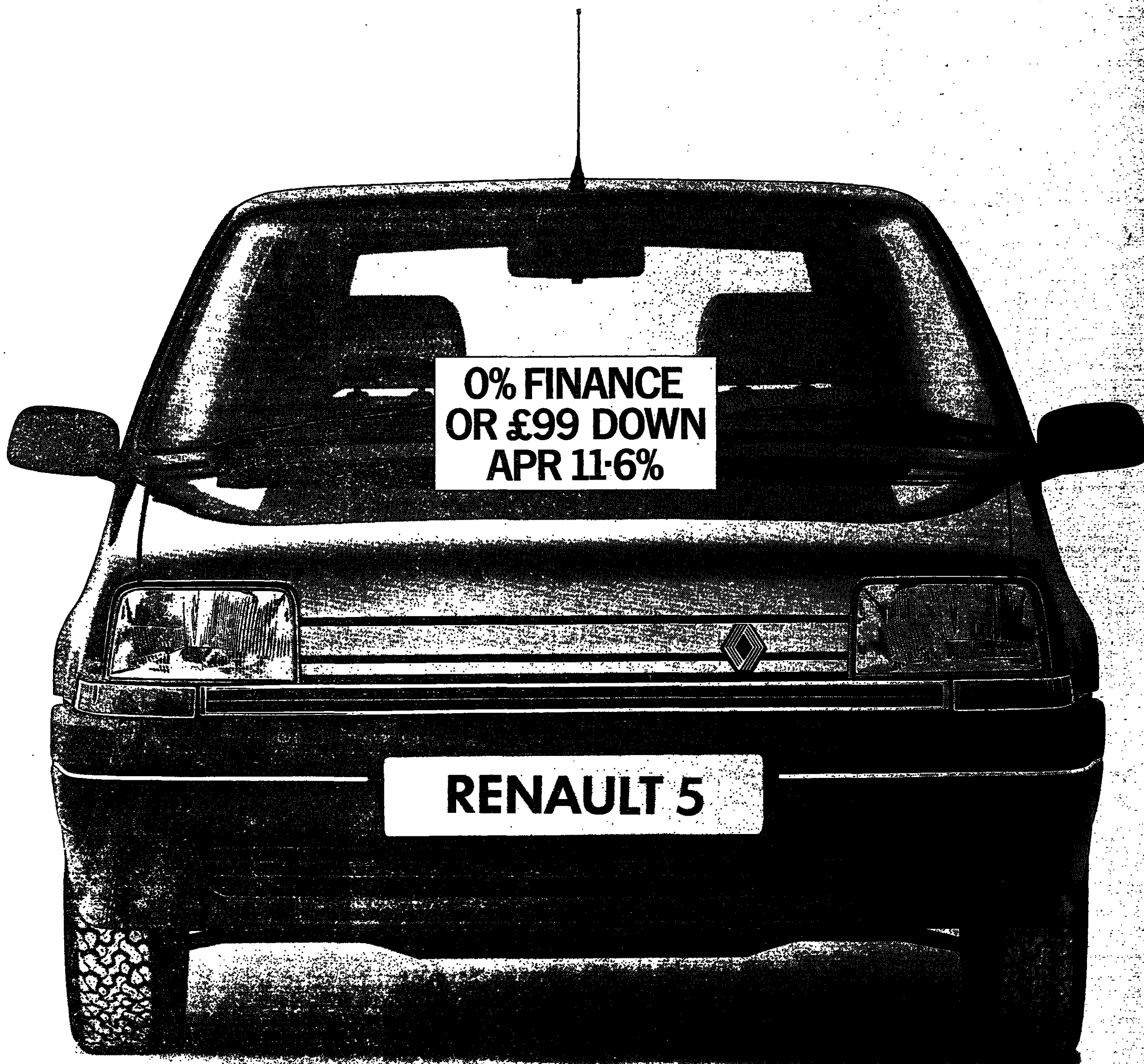
Ministers insist that the growing independent sector should have access to 25 per cent of Britain's four national television channels, and the independents received a further boost yesterday when the BBC said it would appoint a commissioning editor for independent drama productions.

Zenith, a large independent company, has received its first commission from the BBC for a drama series.



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The Government was yesterday of mislead-  
sands of parents who  
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this autumn into  
that they could not  
personally responsi-  
their actions.

The Equal Oppor-  
Commission said in  
governors were aware  
they could find them-  
court or before an in-  
tribunal if they were  
sex discrimination in  
appointing staff.

Under the Educa-  
tion Act, school gov-  
will be given the  
selecting and appoi-  
teachers and support  
staff. Although emp-  
nically will be on the  
the local authority. It  
will hire and fire.

Under government  
lines, issued last year,  
errors will be made  
against legal costs if  
provided they are not  
reasonable.

However, Miss Lee  
the committee of 12  
education officers, say  
they were prevented  
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would still have to  
their action.

QC at  
'unfair

By Frances G.

A QC who has been  
Bar Council's new  
present system of  
Bar as a profession  
and called for a  
including a new  
system.

In the latest move  
Council, Mr. John  
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a career as a  
barrister.

A system of  
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He charged the  
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Man ad  
says for

A man accused of  
convicted  
asked a former girl  
provide an alibi for  
damaged hand, a jury  
yesterday.

Miss Sally, who  
claimed that Gary, 25,  
confessed to the  
and told her how  
buried a knife and  
he was wearing at the

But she told the  
Preston Crown Court  
didn't believe any of it.

Mr Noble, of The  
rows, New Church  
Skelmersdale, Lancas-  
nies murdering Alan, 32,  
aged 32, a divorced  
two children who served  
month jail sentence  
for indecent assault.

The prosecution has  
that Mr Halshaw, of  
Skelmersdale, was the  
of a savage attack  
naked in bed.

Giorgio  
sceptic

An American multi-  
aire believes he has  
Three Ages of Man.  
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discovery is of world  
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be of huge value.

Mr John Harrington  
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hung at Isel Hall,  
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Atlanta, and has  
trying to authentic-  
ate.

Recent pigment test  
McCrone Research  
in Chicago confirm  
from 1500. But the "fi-  
been met with sce-  
among British curators.  
Michael Campbell,  
National Gallery of  
which owns a paint-  
called The Three Ages  
by Titian, said: "We



## Parent-governors 'misled' on their legal responsibility

By Douglas Broom, Education Reporter

The Government was accused yesterday of misleading thousands of parents who stood for election as school governors this autumn into believing that they could not be held personally responsible for their actions.

The Equal Opportunities Commission said that most governors were unaware that they could find themselves in court or before an industrial tribunal if they infringed the sex discrimination laws when appointing staff.

Under the Education Reform Act school governors will be given the job of selecting and appointing teachers and support staff. Although employees technically will be on the staff of the local authority, governors will hire and fire.

Under government guidelines, issued last month, governors will be indemnified against legal costs and fines provided they act reasonably.

However, Miss Lynda Carr, the commission's principal education officer, said even if they were protected from bearing the legal costs, governors would still have to answer for their actions to the law. "Min-

isters keep talking about how governors will not have to bear any financial liability for their actions.

"But if they break the law they will have to explain their actions in court or before a tribunal," she said.

A survey of headteachers in one local authority area had found that most of them thought the Sex Discrimination Act did not apply to schools, only to industry.

"There is widespread ignorance among governors and not enough is being done to inform them about their responsibilities for equal opportunities," she said.

"We are talking about the existence of unlawful practices. This is not just some bee in the bonnet of the EOC. Something must be done, as much to protect the individual governors as to ensure that the education service is properly staffed."

She accused the Department of Education and Science of refusing to distribute "Equal Opportunities and the School Governor" booklet, the commission's booklet, which contains advice on how to avoid falling foul of the Act.

The commission is having talks with the National Association of Governors and Managers in the hope of getting the message across.

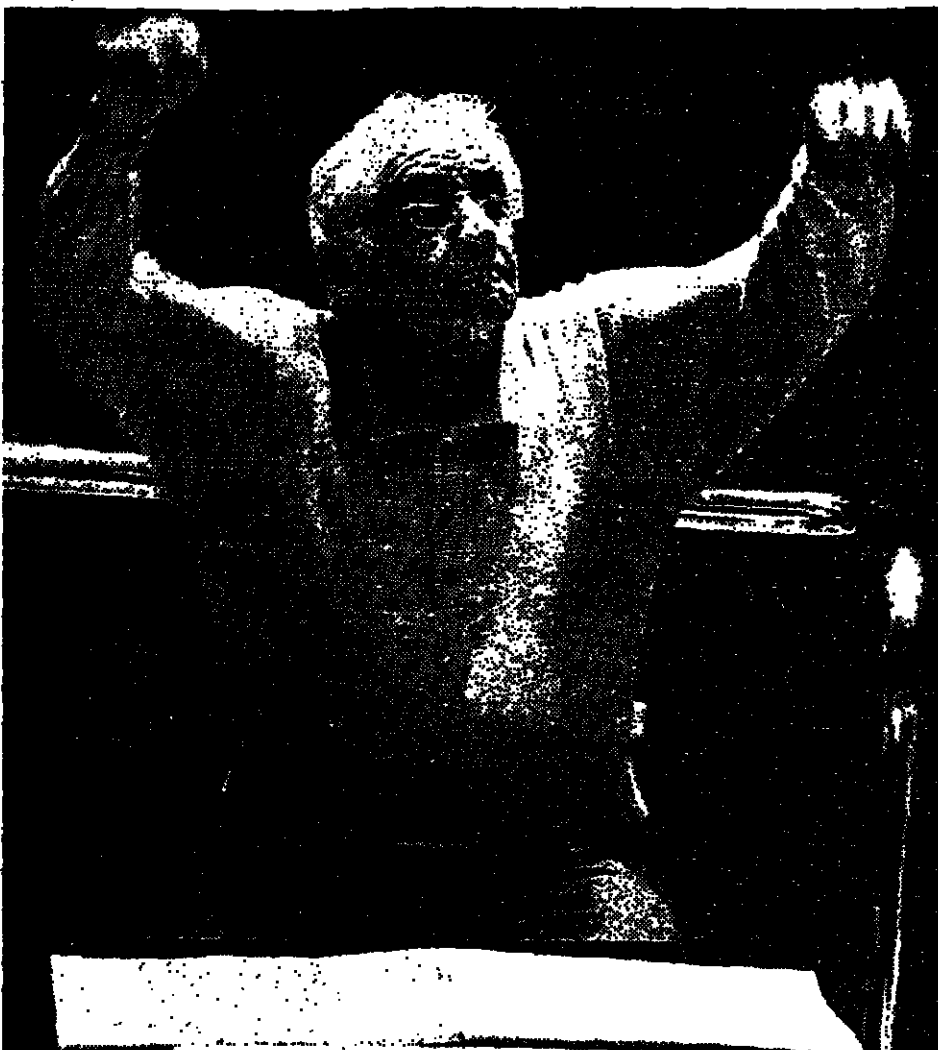
Miss Carr said governors would be guilty of unlawful discrimination if they advocated appointing only a man for a job or asked a woman if she proposed to leave to have children.

A spokesman for the Department of Education and Science said that if it had distributed the booklet it would have had to have done the same for any other body.

● A teacher who thought the GCSE examinations were so inadequate that some of his pupils sat Scottish O levels was yesterday without a job. Mr Chris McGovern, head of the history department at Lewes Priory School in East Sussex, has been rejected for all five teaching posts he had applied for.

He said last night "I was well qualified for all five posts and the fact that I have been turned down for all of them makes me very suspicious. It seems to me that if you speak out on education you become an educational leper."

## President on the rostrum



Leonard Bernstein rehearsing with the London Symphony Orchestra yesterday for tonight's and tomorrow's concerts at the Barbican in the City — the first time he has conducted the orchestra since becoming its president. He will conduct a programme of his own works, including ballet music from *Fancy Free*. (Photograph: Ros Drinkwater).

## BMA calls for survey on child abuse

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

The British Medical Association yesterday urged the Government to launch the largest research project of its kind into child sexual abuse in Britain.

The BMA is seeking a meeting with Mr Kenneth Clarke, Secretary of State for Health, to discuss ways to improve the detection and management of such cases after the public inquiry into child abuse at Cleveland earlier this year.

A BMA working party has produced a report which is being sent to the Department of Health. One of its main recommendations is that a university research department should be given government funding to assess how widespread is child sexual abuse.

Dr Arnold Elliott, chairman of the working party, said yesterday: "This has to be set up quickly and has to be the most thorough project of its kind."

"We would be very distressed if the Government responded negatively to our recommendation, because society is demanding something more than words. The Government has issued docu-

ments about child abuse but more needs to be done."

The BMA report says that one of the main problems in formulating a policy for dealing with child sexual abuse is the lack of information relating to its incidence, making the planning of professional services difficult.

It says the Cleveland cases showed the problems that could arise "from a widely held assumption of the infallibility of doctors".

The use of diagnostic techniques such as reflex anal dilatation, much relied upon in Cleveland, should not be the sole basis for a diagnosis of sexual abuse, it says.

Instead, the physical and emotional condition of the child should be looked at together. If the abuser of the child were a member of the family, it might be better to remove him or her, rather than the youngster, from the family home.

The working party recommends that all doctors who are likely to be involved in such cases should have special education, including postgraduate training. Similar training should be offered to police officers.

## QC attacks Bar's 'unfair' selection

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

A QC who is a member of the Bar Council has attacked the present selection system of the Bar as unfair and inefficient and called for urgent reform including a "clearing-house" system.

In the latest issue of the Bar Council magazine Mr Nicholas Stewart, QC, says: "What the Bar is doing in choosing new members of chambers, is awarding a limited number of highly-prized licences to start a career as a barrister."

A system which excludes "any serious potential candidate from competing for an available tenancy is unfair and inefficient", he says.

He challenges the present Bar "open-door" policy which disappoints many pupil barristers who find they cannot then obtain a seat in chambers.

All pupils should be allocated on merit through a clearing house system; and the entire practising Bar should contribute annually to a pupilage training fund, from which all pupils automatically receive the same grant, he says.

He would also like the Bar's present open-door policy, under which anyone who wants a pupilage should have

one, to be restricted to the first six months of pupilage; and all tenancies in chambers to be allocated on merit through a central clearing-house, on the basis of interviews and proper references.

Although more and more chambers are advertising tenancies and awarding them after open competition, they are still the exception, he says.

Too many tenancies are offered on the basis that if there is a pupil in chambers who is up to standard there is no need to look any further, however many better candidates there might be outside.

Mr Stewart's criticisms come when the Bar has been under pressure from the Lord Chancellor to take further action to attract new recruits.

There is also concern at the large numbers of pupil barristers who fail to obtain a seat in chambers, even taking into account the wish of many not to practise. There are some 300 seats and some 600 pupils a year.

A working party under Mr David Latham, QC, recommended a clearing-house system for tenancies and other reforms to the Bar Council last July.

## Man admitted killing, says former girl friend

A man accused of murdering a convicted sexual offender asked a former girl friend to provide an alibi to explain his damaged hand, a jury was told yesterday.

Miss Sally Wallace also claimed that Gary Noble, aged 25, confessed to the murder and told her how he had buried a knife and the clothes he was wearing at the time.

But she told the jury at Preston Crown Court: "I didn't believe any of it."

Mr Noble, of The Windrows, New Church Farm, Skelmersdale, Lancashire, denies murdering Alan Halshaw, aged 32, a divorced father of two children who served a 15-month jail sentence in 1985 for indecent assault.

The prosecution has alleged that Mr Halshaw, of Alderley, Skelmersdale, was the victim of a savage attack as he lay naked in bed.

Miss Wallace, also of Skelmersdale, said her association with Mr Noble broke up two years ago and she had not seen him again until after the killing.

His left hand was bandaged and he said he had injured it with a chisel. Noble then asked if she would give him an alibi by saying it had been done on her back door. He allegedly admitted murdering a man at Alderley.

After Noble had been arrested, he was alleged to have told Det Constable Anthony Marsden: "He was a monster. You should be able to sleep better tonight. The world should be better off."

Mr Ronald Livesey, QC, for the defence, suggested Noble's remarks were "the ravings of a man who had had drink". The officer replied: "I did regard it as extremely serious."

The trial continues today.

## Giorgione 'find' gets sceptical reception

An American multimillionaire believes he has found The Three Ages of Man, an original painting by the Italian Renaissance master, Giorgione. If he is right the discovery is of world significance and the painting must be of huge value.

Mr John Harrington, from Florida, says the painting hung at Isel Hall, Cockermouth in the Lake District from 1786 until it was sold in 1960 for £200. The next year, he bought it at auction in Atlanta, and has since been trying to authenticate it.

Recent pigment tests by the McCrone Research Institute in Chicago confirm it dates from 1500. But the "find" has been met with scepticism among British curators.

Michael Campbell, of the National Gallery of Scotland, which owns a painting also called The Three Ages of Man by Titian, said: "We have not

**SALEROOM**  
by Sarah Jane Checkland  
Art Market Correspondent

heard anything from Mr Harrington. The subject was one of the standard allegorical machines". At the National Gallery in London, Michael Helston, a curator, said: "It's the first I've heard about it, and it's impossible to comment without seeing it."

● Fourteen folios from the Houghton Shahnameh, claimed by Christie's as the greatest Persian manuscript in the world, fetched a total of £976,800, yesterday.

● At Old Henham Hall, Wangford, Suffolk, Prudential Fine Art continued to sell the heirlooms of the Earl of Stradbroke, raising £1.1 million by the end of the session.

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## Channelrail Link



# CONSERVATIVE PARTY CONFERENCE

## Revolution in rail and road funding is on the way

By Richard Ford and Sally Dealer

A radical revolution in the funding of the road and rail network was announced at the Brighton conference yesterday by Mr Paul Channon, Secretary of State for Transport, in an attempt to end traffic congestion.

Much more private-sector cash is to be used in the building of roads and railways as the Government aims to increase competition and market discipline in the transport industry.

As part of his drive to encourage greater private-sector involvement, Mr Channon announced that British Rail is to invite private companies to build and perhaps own the high-speed rail-link from the Channel tunnel to London.

He wants that to lead to competition between BR and the private sector, giving commuters in Kent a better service.

A study is looking at the possible privatization of British Rail which was yesterday given the go-ahead by Mr Channon to spend £70 million on 200 new rail coaches.

Work costing £750 million is to begin on improvements on the London Underground's Central Line and the privatization of ports is on the Government's agenda.

The minister told representatives that he wanted a

### TRANSPORT

private as well as public sector. "What a revolution that would be. Why should we make the automatic assumption that bureaucrats — or even politicians — have some God-given right to decide what kind of roads we need and where?"

Such a development would probably lead to the introduction of toll roads, which Mr Channon said that he had not ruled out. He and his departmental ministers were taken by surprise at the number of calls for toll roads which were made from representatives during the debate.

With traffic congestion and transport problems causing growing concern on the Conservative back benches, Mr Channon was under pressure to produce a strong speech outlining his proposals for improving the position while also satisfying the conference that radical solutions would be considered.

He said that he was determined to keep the department as the forefront of the drive to remove the dead hand of the state. Local authorities would be encouraged to privatize their airports and bus companies. He has also given the go-ahead for a pilot scheme to bring back trolley buses to the centre of Bradford.

"The private sector will play

its part in roads. My aim is to create a private as well as a public sector in roads," Mr Channon said.

It could help to open up the inner cities, providing more jobs and development and help to attack congestion. "My vision is of a Britain with a first-rate transport system, combining public sector investment with the initiative and imagination of the private sector."

Mr Channon also told the conference that he had set a target of reducing by one third the number of people killed on Britain's roads.

Mr Martin Simmons, Norwich, had moved a motion, later passed, calling on the Government to continue the high level of capital investment in the infrastructure.

He said that he saw no reason why at least some private investment should not be involved. Some by-passes could be built by private firms which could be allowed to charge tolls on them.

Commander Noel Pantley, Pontypriid, said that congestion could be cured by charging road users for the space they used and the time they used it. The technology existed to do that.

Mr Nicholas Gibb, Bethnal Green, opposed the motion. He asked Mr Channon for commitments to build motorways with private investment and for by the road user at the time of use.



## Heseltine puts tax challenge to ministers

By Philip Webster  
Chief Political Correspondent

Mr Michael Heseltine yesterday threw down a challenge to the Government to use the wealth it was creating to help rundown areas, ease the North-South divide and promote a better environment.

In a keynote restatement of his philosophy to the Tory Reform Group, he told the Government not to be hard-hearted in carrying out hard-headed policies, and demanded a fair distribution of wealth between the privileged and the less privileged, what he called a "generous society".

The future Conservative leadership contender called on the party to have the vision to look beyond the next election, which it would win, to plan for the "Tory millennium".

He criticized the Government's failure to match words by deeds over the inner cities and reopened his dispute with Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment, over the threat to greenfield sites in the South.

He called for action to cut the chance of success in planning appeals to the secretary of state, which he said undermined the will of local authorities to protect their environments and converted the secretary of state into the front-line planning authority.

Predicting that Britain's national income would be £150 billion higher by the end of the century, Mr Heseltine said that the Government would rightly use part of the revenue to cut taxes.

But it would not forgo all its share of the extra wealth. Calling for a proper balance between "individual discretion and public responsibility", he said that there would be more people, more money, more cars and more leisure.

The Government could plan for the impact that would have on the countryside, towns, streets and traffic, or the answers would be haphazard and imposed by an unfettered market.

There had to be vision because young people looked to the Tories to lift their aspirations; they wanted an environment worth living for.

He added: "Let us not allow our faith in the individual and the market to overshadow the reality of inner-city life. Only those with no idea of conditions found there can believe that the existing communities alone from their own resources can reverse the decline."

They must create the conditions where more of the new wealth led to jobs, investment and better housing in areas of urban Britain now despoiled; where

### ENVIRONMENT

Scotland, Wales, the North and the Midlands prospered in Europe, not just Kent, Surrey, Sussex, Hampshire and the Home Counties.

To ease pressure on development in the South he called for a programme to revive wasted land in towns and cities, location of more government jobs away from the South-east, placing government research laboratories in some of the older industrial towns, improving road and rail links to help modernization between and within the older areas and make towns and cities safer places in which to live.

"In the essence of Tory philosophy, by giving a new pride and a new civility to our older towns and cities, by improving their environment, by enabling them to compete, we must persuade people to make their lives closer to their existing communities."

Adding his own voice to the revived "green" debate, Mr Heseltine praised the work of former Conservative environment ministers, but did not mention Mr Ridley.

He said: "Just as our Tory philosophy asserts the obligations of privileged and wealthy

individuals towards society, so that same philosophy lays obligation on the more prosperous governments to the planet itself."

"It would be quite wrong to believe that the Conservative Party is unconcerned or indifferent to the quality of life."

The decaying cities and towns of Britain's inheritance were scarred by too many reminders of another age. They could not compete adequately for the new housing, investment, the technological explosion that sought out the green field, clean water, the quiet and more pleasant landscape.

The only Tory answer was to help these areas compete anew.

Mr Heseltine: Tories must not be hard-hearted

individuals towards society, so that same philosophy lays obligation on the more prosperous governments to the planet itself.

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## Opposition defence divisions derided

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

Labour's internal divisions over defence policy were ruthlessly exploited yesterday by Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Defence, as he derided the "disgraceful state" of the Opposition's Blackpool conference last week.

He maintained that Labour now had two defence policies: the unilateralist one reaffirmed by the conference and another hinging on the outcome of the policy review.

In his confusion, Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, was turning to Moscow for advice, but the likelihood was that Mr Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, would be more interested in talking to Mr Ron Todd, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, who played a central role in the

leadership's defeat last week. "If it wishes to be treated as a serious political party, then Labour cannot go on having two defence policies. Ron Todd was at least right in realizing that Mr Kinnock has a choice."

"Either he must give to the left-wing, to Ron Todd and CND, and state plainly and honestly that he wishes Britain unilaterally to disarm, repudiate NATO strategy and turn his back on all our allies, socialist and non-socialist alike."

"Or he must clearly come out in favour of a defence policy based on both nuclear and conventional weapons, form support for NATO's strategy and a recognition that the Warsaw Pact has a massive superiority over NATO in conventional and chemical weapons."

## Young rejects 'Delors vision'

By Martin Fletcher and Anthony Hodges

Lord Young of Grafton, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, spelt out to the conference yesterday the Government's rejection of the "corporate" vision of M. Jacques Delors, president of the European Commission.

Stating his absolute support for Mrs Thatcher's controversial speech in Bruges last month, he told the conference: "We don't want a Europe that is only about business — not at all. But we want a Europe that recognizes that, without growth, without wealth creation, without enterprise, we will have a Europe doomed to decline and unable to afford the care and concern that our citizens deserve."

Speaking to journalists after his speech, he said that the Prime Minister had opened up the debate about the future nature of Europe. "Is it going to be tripartite or going back into the corporatist state? Delors is pushing for... or are we to go towards a Europe that is entrepreneurial and able to earn its own way?" he asked.

It was no accident that M Delors had been invited to address the TUC conference in Bournemouth last month, he said.

Lord Young said that practically none of the 12 EEC member states really wanted to see a "United States of Europe" and said that he could not conceive of European countries wanting to subordinate their national identities in the foreseeable future.

Lord Young told the conference that the Conservatives were committed as any other European political movement to the idea of "a strong and free market in a strong and free Europe".

They wanted to see a vigorous and competitive Europe characterized by freedom of trade and openness, and able to provide a decent standard of living for its citizens.

But they could not accept an over-regulated, over-protected "Fortress Europe" that was "marching firmly backwards into the 1970s". Britain had left all that behind and would not return to it, he said.

Mr Raymond Monbiot, Oxford, and Buckinghamshire European Constituency Council, successfully proposed the motion that the Government should be applauded for the vigour with which it was ensuring that British business was well informed about the single European market.

But he added that if the opportunities offered by 1992 were not grasped by the United Kingdom, then our European partners, the United States or the emerging Pacific nations would surely benefit.

If members of the European Community remained fragmented then they would be picked off one at a time.

Mr Robert Hall, Durham, said that few companies were going up to the challenge of 1992. While British industry sat back, business in the rest of the Community was preparing itself.

Mr Robert Fabricant, South Shields, opposed the motion because he said that British industry should not turn its back on trade with the rest of the world. Market opportunities elsewhere, particularly through the Commonwealth, had to be explored.

## Common agricultural policy Reforms to cut costs by £1bn

### FARMS

Reforms of the common agricultural policy will cut the cost to the British taxpayer by £1 billion in the next four years, Mr John MacGregor, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said.

He told the conference during the first debate that the United Kingdom's butter mountain had been melting away, down by 74 per cent in the past two years. Cereal stocks had fallen by 60 per cent in the same period and further falls were expected in the year ahead. The last big mountain in the UK, of skimmed milk powder, had almost vanished.

Mr MacGregor was replying to a motion, later carried, supporting agricultural policy, and urging it, with the arrival of the European single market, to continue to press for further devaluation of the green pound and dissolution of monetary compensatory amounts (MCAs) in order to create a proper single market.

He accepted the motion. "I entirely agree that our farmers must not be put at a competitive disadvantage with those in other Community countries and in every possible way I seek to achieve that aim" (applause).

He was grateful for the understanding that it made sense to look at whether the taxpayer should be financing some of the "near-market research" carried out with public funding.

"It makes sense to look at our priorities in R & D. There is an acceptance of the need to do that. We want to get on with discussions with the industry which we are doing in a very thorough manner."

"I want to clear up the uncertainties and take decisions as quickly as possible and I find that many in the industry want that too."

Basic agricultural research and development and that relating to public matters, matters of public need, safety, environmental concern, the basic R & D was not at risk.

The motion was moved by Mr James Smith-Smith, Northumbria European constituency councillor, who said that the United Kingdom could not compete with the EEC while continental farmers were supported by their governments to the detriment of British farmers. To achieve parity within the EEC, the Government must support British agriculture.

Mr Geoffrey Clifton-Brown, North Norfolk, said that MCAs should be abolished immediately and Britain should become a fully participating member of the European monetary system.

Afterwards, Mr MacGregor said that the amount that could be identified as "near-market research" was about £30 million.

## Tory policies not gimmicks, Newton tells his party

### THE CITIES

On the inner cities, the Government was not prepared to stand by while the irresponsible financial and bureaucratic policies "stopped every idea in its tracks", Mr Tony Newton, minister responsible for the inner cities, told representatives.

To applause, he said that Conservative policies were not gimmicks, as the Labour Party tried to suggest, but aimed at "bringing about what Labour so conspicuously failed to deliver: more jobs, more training, better housing and safer streets".

Mr Peter Price, Stockton, had moved a motion calling on all national and local government agencies to work together to resolve the long-standing problems of the inner cities.

Mr Peter Evans, Norwood, said that in 1980 the maximum discount for those buying their council house was £5,000. It was now only £35,000. As a result, many inner-London ten-

ants could not afford to buy their homes. "This needs immediate government action" (applause).

Mr Ian Bridge, Nottingham North, said that his local Conservative-controlled council had set up a litter-free zone. The socialists had nuclear-free zones. This small example demonstrated clearly the difference between socialist and Conservative attitudes to local government.

Replying to the debate, Mr Newton said that the Government's aim was to see that greater prosperity and success was not just for some people in some places, but was spread throughout the country.

The Government had two strategic aims to make inner cities better places in which

people could do business, set up enterprises, expand them and provide work for others; to make them better places for people to live in.

There were housing proposals that would improve conditions and opportunities for those in the inner cities and, where housing problems were at their worst, Housing Action Trusts would be set up, take over and improve estates, and then hand them back to their tenants.

All these efforts underlined the scale and range of the Government's commitment working together in this effort. Perhaps it was that concept which seemed like a gimmick to the Labour Party.

There had to be a partnership with local people, local businessmen, local organizations and with the representatives of local communities, whether white, black or Asian.

The motion was accepted.

## Labour mayor is met with heckling

There were murmurs of dissent, groans and even the odd heckle when the Labour Mayor of Brighton, Mr Patricia Hewson, referred to the plight of the unemployed and pensioners, the poll tax and the need for compassion, during her welcome to the conference.

Mrs Hewson told members to look behind the facade of wealth and opulence and think about the people for whom the Government had responsibility, not just the haves, but also the have-nots (Voice from the hall: There are more haves than have-nots).

She added that during her five months as mayor she had acquired a reputation for being outspoken.

"Think not just of those with wealth, but those living in bed-sitter squalor, those waiting and hoping for a job, and our pensioners living close to the margin, and as an angry buzz ran through her audience, neither should the homeless,

the disabled, the young or the old be elbowed aside in an orgy of getting and spending, she said."

She also upset members when she said that not only had Brighton suffered in the past year from the great storm, but also from rate capping, with the poll tax to come.

She drew applause, however, when she said that after the IRA bomb attack of four years ago the party could have turned its back on Brighton and gone elsewhere. It was to the credit of members that they had not taken that option but had returned to the town.

### Business today

There will be debates on housing, energy and privatization and on law and order this morning. After lunch, representatives will debate employment, social security, and planning and the environment.

## Europe 'cannot be built on delusion'

The British people wanted neither socialism nor federalism in Europe, Mr Peter Brooke, MP, chairman of the never been as the Prime Minister and representatives applauded.

In his speech to the opening session, Mr Brooke said that, as good Europeans, they could not have a Europe built on the sand of delusion. It was delusion to believe that a socialist super-state in Brussels would be more successful than the socialist nation-state at Westminster.

He opened by saying that the party was proud to be back in Brighton. The IRA had fondly hoped that after the bomb, Conservative would crumble and they would allow the IRA to wrench Ulster people, by force, from the United Kingdom. "We did not and we shall not."

Inflation had risen a little, but stood at a fifth of the level reached when Labour was in office. It would fall again next year.

"Conservative Britain is leading the West in the right direction. Strong leadership and a thriving economy have transformed our influence in world affairs. Britain's international reputation has never been higher. We are admired and respected as a strong and deter-



Mr Brooke: We want neither socialism nor federalism

mined nation by friends and critics alike."

Mr Brooke devoted much of his speech to the opposition parties, saying that Labour could never win and that, deep down, Mr Kinnock knew it.

He described Mr Ron Todd, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, who had secured the re-election of Mr Kinnock, and Mr Hattersley, and dictated their policies.

"Labour believes that governing is easy. That is why they want to send a boy to do a woman's job" (laughter).

## MP calls for condoms to be issued in prisons

Prisoners should be given condoms to control the spread of Aids among the general population, a senior Conservative MP said yesterday (Nicholas Wood writes).

Speaking at a conference fringe meeting, Mr Robert Key, MP for Salisbury, warned ministers that the country's jails were one of the main bridges to HIV infection of heterosexuals.

He said that up to 30 per cent of male prisoners engaged in homosexual acts while serving their sentences.

On release, many then reverted to their previously heterosexual lifestyle, so putting many more people at risk of contracting the disease. It was "short-sighted and dangerous" of ministers to fail to take preventive measures such as free condoms for prisoners and the provision of heroin substitutes to those addicted to hard drugs.

"Prisons should now issue free condoms to prevent the spread of Aids to the heterosexual population," Mr Key, vice-chairman of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Aids, said.

"We do not like to admit that drug abuse occurs in prisons and we probably feel that the pro-

vision of condoms would appear to condone or even encourage homosexual acts, which are illegal in prison."

The failure to take these preventive measures is short-sighted and dangerous. To argue that homosexuality in prisons is illegal or does not exist is nonsense."

Other reports from conference fringe meetings include the following:

● The Government had let down the people on law and order. Mr Teddy Taylor, MP for Southend East, told a meeting of the Monday Club.

Many of those who had voted Conservative for the first time in 1979 had done so, he said, because they believed the party would take a tough stance on criminality, but since then offences had soared. Nothing would sicken people more than a party that made a lot of noise before an election and then watched crime rise to record levels.

Among measures that he proposed to cut crime were the reintroduction of capital punishment for murder and corporal punishment for violence.

Mr George Gardiner, MP for Reigate, told the meeting that Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home

Secretary, would have a hard task convincing representatives that crime could be curbed.

"He will point to all the new measures in this year's Criminal Justice Act yet we have been taking new measures ever since we came into Government. So why have crimes of violence shot up by nearly 17 per cent in the year to last June, on top of previous increases?" he asked.

One reason was the lack of an effective deterrent to the most violent of crimes, murder. There might be little prospect of a vote on capital punishment in the next parliamentary session, but the issue would come back again and again so long as it remained the clearly expressed wish of most people.

During the Preston bank robbery last month one of the robbers told the manager they had kidnapped that they would get 20 years if caught and only 25 years if they killed anyone. Mr Hurd would have to explain how the Criminal Justice Act provided an effective answer to that.

● Mr Ian Smith, the former Prime Minister of Rhodesia, won a standing ovation at a fringe meeting after expressing deep concern at the campaign for sanctions against South Africa and criticizing "starry-eyed do-gooders".

He said that he was appalled wherever he went at the ignorance in the rest of the world about South Africa. It was unbelievable.

"I am deeply concerned that sanctions will not do harm to South Africa but they will be

devastating to my country, Zimbabwe."

He asked what would happen, if sanctions were imposed, to the neighbouring emerging countries with black governments, some of which relied 100 per cent on the South African transport system. Sanctions would bite against the poorer sections of the community while the wealthier people were cushioned against hardship.

He also criticized the Gienegies Agreement, restricting sporting links with South Africa, which he said, had been wrong at its conception and with the passage of time was becoming more and more indefensible.

The time had come for open and strong denunciation of those politicians who believed they could safeguard one free-

dom by destroying another — the freedom of sportsmen to make their own decisions.

The politicians had failed to bring about any meaningful change in South African politics. By contrast, sportsmen have made a complete success of the same task in eliminating racial discrimination from the sports fields of South Africa.

He called for a movement to bring sportsmen together and ensure justice and fair play for sportsmen. "All the bad guys are united so let us now get together and unite the good guys (applause)."

"Let us have a list in descending order of the most evil and the most notorious at the top. South Africa would be more than half way down that list" (applause).

● A new campaign to reform the Sunday trading laws was launched yesterday as the Young Conservatives disclosed that a poll indicated that 70 per cent of those aged between 16 and 29 wanted change (Richard Ford writes).

However, Mr Timothy Renton, Minister of State at the Home Office, warned a crowded meeting demanding Sunday trading that there was a majority in the House of Commons for complete deregulation.

from the scene of the explosion at the Grand Hotel.

At her side during the blessing, was Mr John Wakeham, the Leader of the House, whose wife Roberta was one of the five murdered in the terrorist attack.

The plaque, on the church wall above a display of flowers, reads: "In proud memory Anthony Barry, Mabel MacLean, Jeanne Shantock, Eric Taylor, and Barbara Wakeham."

Beneath the date, October 12, 1984, were the words: "They paid the price of freedom."

Verdicts of acquittal were returned for the 31 people who were killed in the King's Cross fire.

The decision outraged relatives of victims. Scott, their earlier complainant, told the court that the full verdict of the court could not be accepted.

Mr Scott told the court that the verdict of the court was a verdict of acquittal, but he would not accept it.

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# Jury directed to return accidental death decision in King's Cross fire

## Families outraged after coroner bars verdict of unlawful killing

By Paul Valley

Verdicts of accidental death were returned yesterday on the 31 people who died in the King's Cross fire.

The decision provoked an outraged response from the victims' relatives. Mr Matthew Scott, their barrister, had earlier complained to the court that the jury had "not been told the full story".

Outside the court the relatives protested about the decision and the direction given to the jury by Dr Douglas Chambers, the coroner, who had said that a verdict of unlawful killing could not be accepted.

Mr Scott told the coroner, in the absence of the jury, "if the members of the jury in any way suspect gross negligence by more than one person or by corporations it should be open to them to return a verdict of unlawful killing."

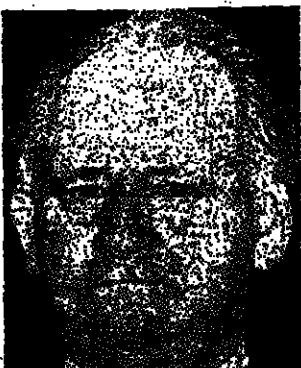
"There is some evidence, albeit imperfect and incomplete, that there has been gross negligence. I refer in particular to the failure to apply a drop of water to the fire in the first 15 minutes. I refer to the previous 18 fires on that escalator. The jury have not heard the full story."

Dr Chambers replied that he had once believed that unlawful killing would be a legally acceptable verdict. However, he now intended to direct the jury that it would be unacceptable. "It is (a direction) I intend to adopt bearing in mind that the Lord Chief Justice advised me to do this." In another case earlier this year he had allowed such a verdict to be returned against his advice.

The coroner then directed the jury that it must restrict itself to either accidental death or an open verdict. The latter would only be appropriate if the jury felt that all the facts had not come out. The jury must not appear to attribute civil or criminal liability in its verdict and could not add any rider.

The jury, after 70 minutes' deliberation, returned a verdict of accidental death and pronounced that 30 of the dead had "been found dead of asphyxia due to inhalation of fire fumes". The other victim had died later in hospital from complications.

Outside the court Mr Ian Walker, the relatives' solicitor, said: "The relatives are



Dr Chambers: criticized by relatives of the dead.

very distressed and angry. As a matter of law it is difficult to see how a verdict of unlawful killing could have been returned but as a matter of emotion that is what they expected.

The truth is that they did not come here for a verdict. They came here to find out what happened to their loved ones that night and they have gone away without really knowing. They feel that the inquiry looked at the evidence in a very superficial way."

The relatives would now be considering the outcome in the light of the inquiry into the Zeebrugge disaster, where the inquiry was much fuller and

returned verdicts of unlawful killing. When the report of the 91-day public inquiry into the fire was published they would consider private prosecution.

Later Miss Sophie Tarassenko, a law student whose brother, Ivan, was killed in the fire, left the court and criticized the coroner who, she said, had allowed London Regional Transport to use the inquiry to wriggle out of its responsibilities.

She said: "At the beginning of the case he told the jury that they were there in a sense to represent the relatives. Then at the end he told them what their findings had to be. From Day One the whole business was a charade. It has shaken my faith in the British legal system."

Mrs Mary Groombridge, whose mother died, referred to the praise the coroner had given to the firemen and policemen at the scene who had behaved with extreme bravery and who had "taken such risks with their lives" and almost certainly reduced the death toll in the disaster.

Mrs Groombridge said: "Yes, they did very well. But that is not the point. The emphasis in the inquiry was largely on what happened

once the flashover had occurred. But it dodged the real issues.

"What we want to know is what happened in the 15 minutes before the flashover. Why, for example, were our relatives directed up to the booking hall at all?"

Miss Tarassenko also criticized London Regional Transport. "They have never admitted responsibility. All they ever talk about is compensation. Their attitude throughout seems to be that it's cheaper to pay out the odd bit of compensation than to spend the millions of pounds necessary to make the Underground safe."

At the end of the hearing the coroner announced that he had a statutory duty to write to London Underground to ensure that measures were taken to avoid a repetition of the catastrophe.

Mr Roger Shire, a spokesman for LRT, said later that safety measures were being taken. "We will be writing to the coroner giving him full details. We feel it would be inappropriate for us to comment further except to express again our deepest sympathy for those injured or bereaved on that tragic evening."



Firemen clearing wreckage from the ticket hall at King's Cross after last November's fire.

## Flashover puzzle still unresolved

By Rodney Cowton, Transport Correspondent

Nobody has explained what caused a relatively innocuous fire on a King's Cross Underground escalator to explode into an inferno that killed 31 people in seconds.

At one stage London Regional Transport said the most likely cause of the "flashover" was gases given off by ceiling paint.

Computer simulations and trials on a one-third scale model of the escalator and its shaft have suggested an alternative explanation.

They are believed to have shown that instead of leaping vertically the flames kept close to the escalator treads, as though in a trench.

Air currents made them move faster and faster until they burst out of the top of the escalator, like a jet, igniting the ticket hall.

Mr Desmond Fennell, QC, who conducted a 91-day inquiry into the disaster, will have to make a judgement on these and other possible explanations of the flashover.

His report is likely to be published before Christmas. Mr Fennell is expected to be severely critical of the response to the fire, which burned for about 15 minutes without water being applied to it, before exploding into an ball of fire.

He is also bound to criticize the lack of practised evacuation procedures, inadequate communications, poor liaison between the emergency services and the poor standards of cleaning.

So far London Regional Transport, the parent body of London Underground, says it has received about 100 claims for compensation. About a quarter of them, mainly rel-

atively small ones relating to loss of clothing and other possessions, have been settled.

Interim payments have been made for about half of the remaining claims, and where no payment has yet been made it is because claimants have not so far supplied sufficient details.

LRT says it is paying a minimum of £7,500 for everybody who died, more than twice the legal requirement. The corporation says it recognizes that much larger payments will be needed where those who died left dependants.

The King's Cross disaster has already led to substantial changes in London Underground's practices.

The ban on smoking was extended to the entire system, and an extra 3,000 brightly painted waste bins were installed. It is the changes being made outside the view of passengers that contribute most to ensuring that the fire is not repeated.

About £30 million is being spent this year on safety, and a further £100 million is budgeted for the next three years. London Underground says it has led to improving its standards of "housekeeping". Escalators are now cleaned and inspected more regularly, using more effective methods. Dust trays under the escalators are emptied daily, and the storage of waste in escalator machine rooms has been prohibited.

The management structure responsible for ensuring safety has been strengthened. Control rooms are being upgraded, and improved closed circuit television and public address systems are being installed.

PARLIAMENT October 11 1988

## Chancellor under fire over mortgage rate increases

Attacks on the Chancellor of the Exchequer's economic policies came from peers during questions in the Lords.

The Earl of Caithness, Minister of State for the Environment, had said that the increase in mortgage interest rates was likely to have some restraining effect on the rise in house prices and, perhaps, also on the number of houses sold.

Lord Deas of Beswick, from the Opposition front bench, said that one of the most serious aspects of this substantial increase was that it would seriously retard the house building programme in the public sector, which was pretty stagnant anyway, but also in the private sector which had been showing considerable improvement in the numbers of houses completed and started.

What advice could the minister give to people who, a few months ago, borrowed money at around 10 per cent and now had to pay big increases in mortgage repayments through no fault of their own, putting themselves in serious financial difficulties?

The Earl of Caithness said that building societies and banks had offered help to those affected, including offering to change repayment dates. It was too early to say whether house building in general would be retarded.

Lord Peston (Lab) asked if the minister agreed with Mr John Biffen's advice to Mr Lawson to limit the relief on mortgage interest because one of the most

powerful inflationary factors must be the rise in house prices.

The Earl of Caithness said that one reason that interest rates were increased by the Chancellor was to curb inflation.

In response to other peers who voiced worries about council houses being repossessed because those who had been induced to buy them could not now afford them, he said that over the years houses had been repossessed because people could not meet their commitments.

Lord Stoddart of Swinton (Lab) said it had been "sheer ineptitude" for the Chancellor to announce on March 15 that he would abolish double mortgage tax relief on August 1 because, this had induced a "gallop" to buy houses before then.

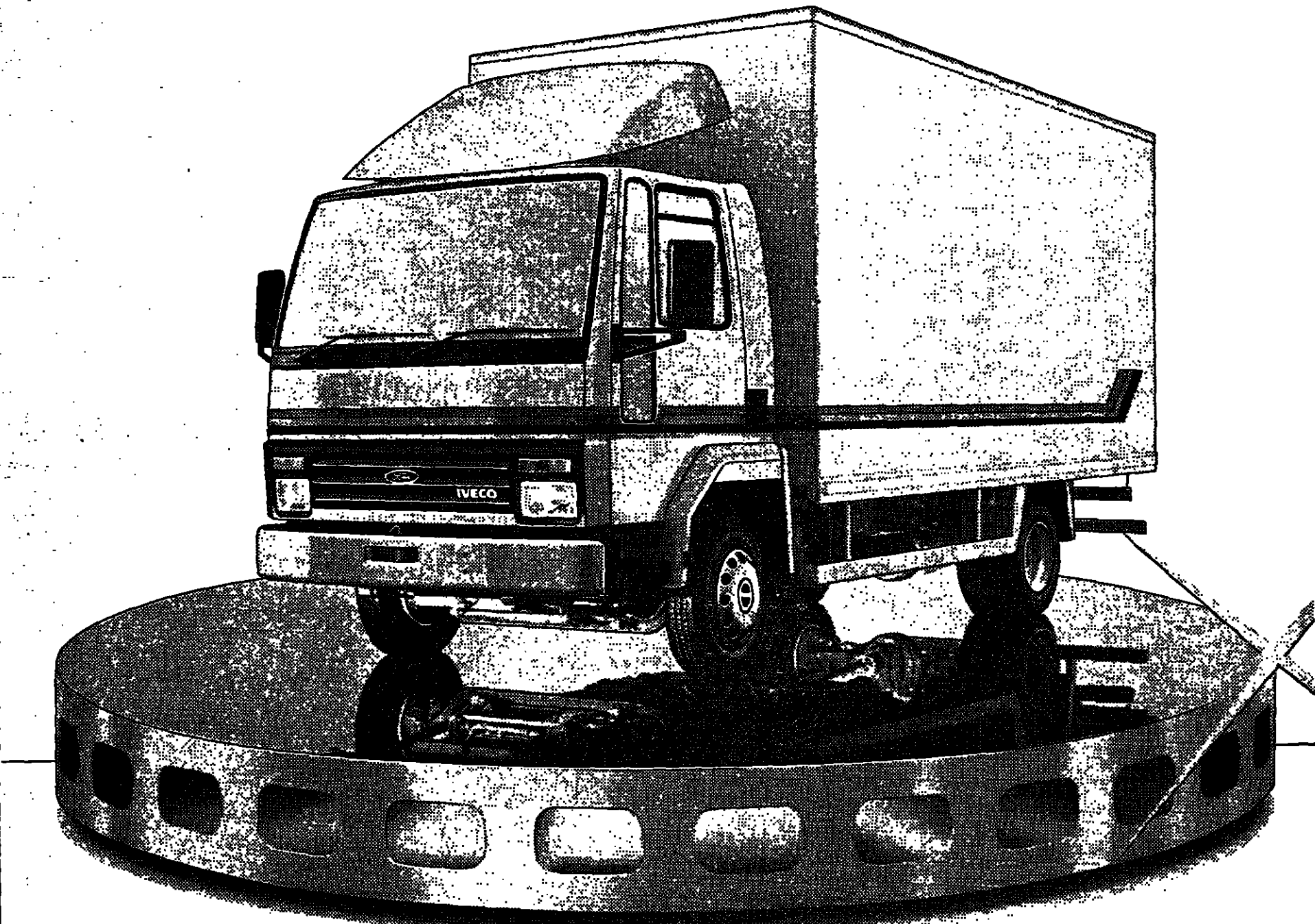
Had not that, at least in part, caused the boom in consumer expenditure which now had to be curtailed by increasing the mortgage interest rate and other interest rates?

Had not the Government and the Chancellor done untold harm by this policy, particularly to first time home buyers?

The Earl of Caithness disagreed. He said that since 1979 there had been some four million home buyers.

Parliament today

Lords (2.30): Debate on reform of EEC structural funds.



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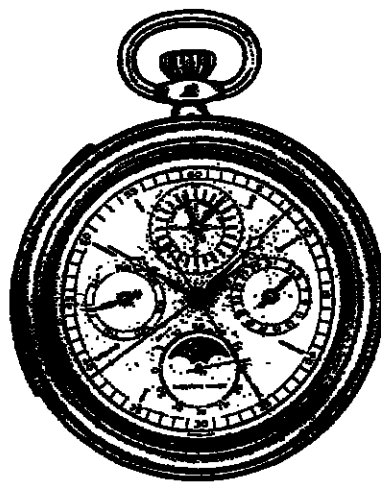
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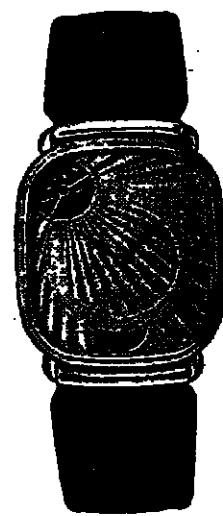
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# The bank which gave legal regulators an international headache

From Richard Thomson  
in London and  
Zahid Hussain in Karachi

The Bank of Credit and Commerce International was founded in 1973 by Mr Agba Hasan Abedi, a Pakistani businessman.

The holding company was established in Luxembourg, a relatively obscure "offshore" banking centre at the time, while the active banking operations were in London and Abu Dhabi.

From the start, this diffuse structure led to headaches for banking supervisors. The bank's principal activity, to provide trade and project finance on an international scale, also caused problems for regulators trying to understand the bank's operations.

It appears that the Luxembourg authorities may have found the problems of regulating the bank so acute that they tried to pass on the ultimate responsibility to the Bank of England. The bank has

persistently refused to take this on although it is responsible for supervising the bank's British operations. As BCCI's business grew in the US, there also appears to have been an unsuccessful attempt to get the US banking authorities to accept ultimate

## ● Luxembourg and the Bank of England have aided international investigation ●

regulatory responsibility for it.

It is clear, however, that the international investigation into the bank's activities by the US authorities has been aided by close co-operation from the Bank of England and the Luxembourg supervisors.

Because the US authorities have accused BCCI of a whole of laundering drug money, the Bank

of England is now expected to take more active regulatory steps against the bank in London.

This could start with a thorough investigation of BCCI's accounts and records which the bank has powers to carry out under the 1986 Banking Act. The bank's ultimate sanction against an institution which does not satisfy supervisory rules is to withdraw its licence in Britain.

Mr Abedi, now recovering from a recent heart-transplant operation at Harefield Hospital, Middlesex, is still the bank's president. His deputy and chief executive is Mr Swaleh Nagvi.

Under their direction the bank's assets have grown to \$20 billion, (£11.7 billion) with pre-tax profits last year of \$115 million. BCCI operates in 73 countries with subsidiaries and affiliates as far afield as Botswana, Cameroon, Canada, Colombia, Spain, Gibraltar, Hong Kong, Nigeria and Switzerland. Its links are particu-

larly strong with the Indian sub-continent and Africa, and it was one of the first foreign banks to be given permission to open an office in China.

It also has a large network of retail branch offices - 45 of which are in Britain. Out of a total workforce of 13,500 the bank has 1,500 British employees.

Although it originally counted Bank of America among its leading shareholders until 1980, the shareholders are now almost entirely Middle Eastern. The Malouf family, one of the richest in Saudi Arabia and which also owns the National Commercial Bank, holds 20 per cent of BCCI. The Abu Dhabi Investment Authority owns a further 10 per cent.

BCCI was in the news earlier this year over its involvement in the Barlow Clowes affair. It lent £10.5 million to James Ferguson Holdings, the parent company of Barlow Clowes, which was secured by an equivalent £10.5 million

deposit placed with the Gibraltar branch of BCCI. This deposit came from Barlow Clowes investors funds, although there have been no suggestions that the bank knew this.

The £10.5 million loan precipitated the downfall of James

## ● £10 million loan precipitated the downfall of James Ferguson Holdings ●

Ferguson which went into receivership with BCCI as the company's largest creditor. The sale of Ferguson's assets has raised only about £7.5 million leaving a shortfall of approximately £3.5 million since interest charges have brought the loan BCCI made up to £11 million.

BCCI is expected to make up the shortfall by claiming £3.5

million from the Barlow Clowes investors funds which were deposited with it.

Mr Abedi created BCCI at the peak of oil boom. Reputed to be a brilliant banker, he was president of United Bank of Pakistan, one of the largest private banks in the country before it was nationalized by the former Prime Minister, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto in 1973.

Mr Abedi started his own banking operation from the Middle East after leaving Pakistan in 1974 taking with him a large number of highly experienced Pakistani bankers.

BCCI soon started spreading to Asia and Africa. It was granted a licence in Zimbabwe and lately it has set up branches in New York and Washington.

Mr Abedi has his own style of running the bank. According to some sources, the bank is controlled and run by him, and the board of directors has remained inconspicuous.

He is known for his very close relations with the late President Zia.

BCCI is financing and patronising many organizations, which include the Third World Foundation. Based in London the foundation publishes a Third-World quarterly and a monthly South magazine.

● NEW YORK: Until recently small jets would fly regularly from the US to land at Tortijeros Airport in Panama loaded with crates full of money, mostly in \$20 notes. According to the US Justice Department, they would taxi over to the local airforce base, where the cash was unloaded under military guard and driven to the nearest bank (Charles Bremner writes).

The "laundry service" was laid on for a hefty fee by General Manuel Noriega, the Panamanian leader, according to US prosecutors but this has been slowed by US authorities.

# Reform pledges fail to quell unrest in Algeria

From Christopher Walker, Algiers

Algeria's state of military siege remained in force yesterday amid signs that the vague promises of political reform offered by its beleaguered socialist leader, President Chadli Benjedid, had failed to quell anger among the country's disaffected youth.

Diplomats predicted that the crisis facing a country once proclaimed as "a beacon of African revolution" could continue for weeks, with stability threatened by an explosive amalgam - including both Islamic extremists and illegal communists.

The unrest has sent tremors of concern throughout the Arab world, where a number of other nations face similar problems, including a demographic explosion, slumping oil prices, commodity shortages and an upsurge of Islamic fundamentalism.

Although some Algerian intellectuals welcomed the prospect of reforms in the cumbersome political system, it was impossible to find support for the package among slum dwelling teenagers who are demanding food, jobs, water and an end to hyper-inflation.

While strict government

censorship restricted critical reaction to the reform package inside Algeria, a one-party state, Mr Ahmed Ben Bella, the first Algerian President who now lives in exile, told French radio in an interview widely heard here that it was "too little, too late".

Western observers impressed by recent moves by President Chadli to decentralize Algeria's ailing economy were disappointed by his 20-minute address, which had been trailed by Government officials as a "profound series of reforms" which would quickly return the security situation to normal.

Tension was highest in the densely populated working class district of Bab-el-Oued, once the centre of vicious guerrilla resistance against the French, where some 30 unarmed demonstrators were shot dead by the Army only hours before the President's Monday night call for calm.

During a two-hour tour of its narrow streets, strewn by rubbish and debris, I repeatedly came across groups of sullen youths facing heavily armed soldiers and riot police equipped with sub-machine guns. Very few Algerian taxi

drivers were prepared to enter the area because they said they feared the Army's ruthless shoot-to-kill tactics.

One witness to Monday's shooting - now described by local residents as "a massacre" - told me how he had seen at least 20 bodies being delivered to the mortuary of one hospital.

Islamic fundamentalist supporters in the area and other parts of Algiers have privately accused the authorities of deliberately holding up funerals of riot victims for fear that they will become the focus for new violence.

Attempts by journalists to report the iron fist tactics being employed by the Algerian security forces have been hampered by hostility from both the soldiers and some of the Muslim extremists who follow a fanatical local imam, Ali Bel Haj, who is blamed by the Government for whipping up much of the trouble.

Yesterday, a group of the extremists gathered around the half-built redbrick mosque in which he has delivered some of his most radical addresses threatened to wreck the taxi in which I and three

American journalists were travelling. The mood in the streets was noticeably uglier than in the 24 hours before Monday's shooting.

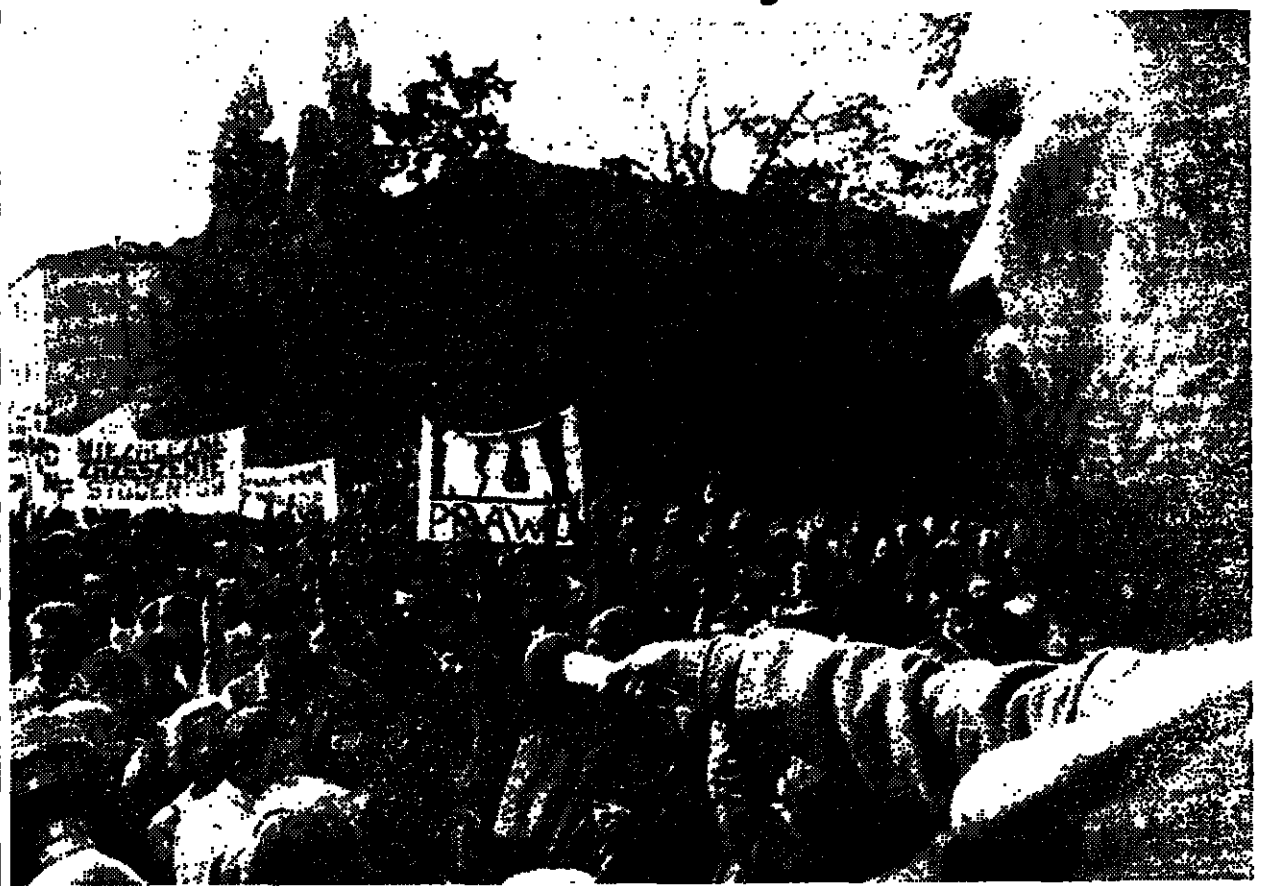
In one incident, I saw an Algerian officer use his own hand to deflect the barrel of a heavy machine-gun being held at the head of a civilian driver who had apparently ignored a traffic instruction from a private.

Little information has been given about the new military tribunals at which rioters are to be tried, but there are repeated rumours that many of those arrested in the eight days since the unrest began have been severely maltreated in military detention.

The Government has attempted to minimize popular reaction to the military repression which has left more than 200 people dead since the riots began by refusing to give figures and banning local reporting of the shooting incidents.

But it has been defeated by the formidable Algerian bush telegraph, known as "radio trottoir" which was polished to perfection in the eight-year battle for independence against the French.

# Poland's students rally for freedom



Students demanding legalization of the outlawed Independent Students' Association at a rally organized by the group at Warsaw University yesterday. The students also called for greater campus autonomy and an end to the compulsory study of Russian.

The gathering at Warsaw University was one of many rallies - the first to be

legally permitted in seven years - throughout Poland (AP reports)

Similar gatherings were held at about 30 universities and colleges in the larger cities, Mr Piotr Sosnowski, a spokesman for the independent association, said in Gdansk.

The Government said it "disapproved" of the demonstrations and accused

students of trying to "torpedo" forthcoming round-table talks between the opposition and the authorities.

Before the Warsaw rally, members of the officially recognized Polish Students' Association distributed leaflets saying that one students' organization could not represent all students. The leaflets were burnt by the protesting students.

## WORLD ROUNDUP

### Japanese minister linked to scandal

Tokyo - Documents produced by the opposition alleging that the Japanese Finance Minister may have had privileged access to cheap shares in a property company, yesterday for the first time linked an explosive stock market scandal to the Cabinet (Joe Joseph writes). The scandal has disrupted the Government's legislative timetable and, with the opposition scenting blood, it now threatens the Government itself.

The scandal was revealed three months ago when it was found that 76 people, including aides of Mr Noboru Takeshita, the Prime Minister, Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, his predecessor, Mr Kiichi Miyazawa, the Finance Minister, and Mr Shintaro Abe, the secretary-general of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, made big profits after cheaply buying stock in Recruit Cosmos. The shares boomed when the property company was later floated on the stock market. The Government has so far insulated itself from the scandal by saying that the ministers' aides bought the shares without the knowledge of their superiors.

### Punjab leader killed

Delhi (Renter) - Three Sikh separatists shot dead Mr Bhagwan Dass, the vice-president of the ruling Congress (I) party in Punjab state, yesterday, police said. He was murdered as he sat in his grain shop in the small town of Jaito. His bodyguard and a third person were also killed. The Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, visited Jaito last month when he toured Punjab. Indian government officials announced yesterday that Mr Gandhi would again visit Punjab tomorrow. India's richest agricultural state, to inspect damage caused by recent floods.

● BANGALORE: India's four main opposition groups met yesterday to launch a new merged party to challenge Mr Gandhi. Some 6,000 people attended the merger meeting.

### Sales 'badly hit Nato'

Kongsberg (Renter) - General Vigleik Eide, the head of Norway's armed forces, said yesterday that illegal high-technology sales to the Soviet Union by a Norwegian state arms firm had seriously damaged the Nato alliance. The general was testifying at the trial of Mr Bernard Green, a Briton charged in connection with the 1982 and 1983 sales of computer gear by Kongsberg Vapenfabrik to Leningrad shipyards. The equipment was used to make virtually silent submarine propellers. "The deliveries boosted (Soviet submarine) development and made detection of them more difficult," General Eide told the court. Mr Green went on trial last week and has pleaded not guilty to giving false information to the authorities in connection with the sales.

### Prague Cabinet quits

Prague (AP) - The Czechoslovak federal Government resigned yesterday, one day after Mr Lubomir Strougal resigned as Prime Minister, the Czechoslovak state news agency, CTK, reported. More top-level changes, announced at Monday's start of a two-day session of the Communist Party Central Committee by the party leader, Mr Milos Jakes, were expected to be disclosed later. Mr Strougal, aged 63, an economics expert, was believed to have been Europe's longest-serving Prime Minister.

### Yacht death arrests

Sydney - Two Indonesians, a police sergeant and a civilian harbour master, have been arrested after the fatal shooting of a British yachtsman, David Blenkinsop, and the wounding of his fiancée, who is expecting a baby in three months time (Christopher Morris writes). The arrests were disclosed yesterday in Canberra by Mr Bob Hawke, the Australian Prime Minister, who earlier described the shootings as "appalling and despicable". He told MPs that Australia would closely monitor any trial or inquiry to ensure that justice was done.

## Mitterrand defence speech

### France rejects dual role

From Philip Jacobson, Paris

President Mitterrand of France yesterday underlined the country's determination to retain an independent nuclear deterrent and to remain outside Nato's integrated military command.

In an uncompromising speech on defence policy, Mitterrand also reaffirmed the Government's intention to maintain and modernize its ballistic missile capability, stressing that it would not "deprive France of any type of weapons possessed by other powers".

The doctrine Mitterrand set out in an address to the Institute of Advanced Defence Studies - his most detailed statement on defence since being re-elected - was Gaullist in tone. France's principal mission, he declared, is "to maintain our own identity and independence".

Emphasizing that there is "no question" of changing the country's stance on non-membership of Nato, Mitterrand observed that the defence of other countries in Western Europe was the

responsibility of the Atlantic Alliance. In the event of hostilities beginning, it would be up to the President to decide how France's "vital interests" were best served.

It was conceivable, Mitterrand said, that such a strategy could involve a situation outside French frontiers. In this case, for example an attack on West Germany, "France would respond with all the means at her disposal, nuclear weapons included, provided this was part of a wider response by the Atlantic Alliance".

In an apparent reference to external pressure on France to contribute to the process of nuclear arms control, the President declared that the INF agreement between Moscow and Washington was "one of the major events of the post-war era". But he stressed that there is no question of France becoming involved in the process of nuclear disarmament until the arsenals of the two superpowers, who each possess 12,000 warheads, reached a

level comparable to the few hundred France had.

Turning to conventional weapons, Mitterrand left no doubt that France remains convinced that these are "an indispensable complement to our nuclear deterrent". The nation possessed the means to produce a neutron bomb, he observed.

● WASHINGTON: Visitors from the Soviet bloc and other countries, including suspected intelligence agents, were reported to have routinely been allowed access to the US Energy Department's nuclear weapons laboratories (Moshin Ali writes).

The General Accounting Office, an investigative watchdog body for Congress, said in a report that visitors from the Soviet Union, China, Israel, India and other nations had stayed at some of the laboratories for weeks at a time, according to *The New York Times* yesterday.

In some cases, visitors had come and gone before the required clearances had been given by the CIA or the FBI.

## Palestinians win battle to export produce to Europe

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

Grapefruit, aubergines and hot peppers are unlikely symbols of independence - but they have become just that for Palestinians.

The first direct shipments of such produce from the Israeli occupied territories will be on their way to the EEC later this month. For the Arab growers, they are the first real proof that an independent Palestine could establish trading links with the world.

The shipments were allowed for the first time under the terms of an agreement signed on Monday between farmers' representatives and Israeli officials. The deal spells out the conditions under which producers can send fruit and vegetables to the EEC, marked with the region they come from as the place of origin and shipped without going through state-run Israeli marketing organizations.

The Israelis, aware of the agreement's potential implications, had stalled it for a year. Although the authorities said more than 12 months ago that they would allow regional

places of origin to be marked on produce from the territories - provided the word "Palestine" was not used - they insisted that goods be shipped through their marketing organizations, arguing that

The Palestine Liberation Organization remains deeply divided over its leaders' recommendation that members accept the formation of an independent Palestinian state. Western diplomats said yesterday (Nicholas Beeson writes). On Monday a PLO spokesman in Tunis said that the executive committee had voted to convene the Palestine National Council - a parliament in exile.

These were better, cheaper and quicker than alternatives the growers could find.

But the EEC strongly backed the producers' right to choose their own shipping agents and Israel, which was losing an estimated \$1 million (£584,000) a month because the European Parliament had

refused to approve three trade and financial protocols in Israel's favour, eventually reached agreement with the growers.

Under the terms of the deal, quantities for export have to be agreed before the start of each season. Permission for each consignment from the Israeli authorities has to be issued "expeditiously" and within a maximum of two days. Security checks are also to be carried out promptly.

At the same time, the deal seeks to stop a common practice of the past whereby Israeli producers bought Arab fruit cheaply, re-labelled it as their own and exported it at a high profit.

The first shipments of grapefruit, under the "Gaza Products" mark, are soon to leave for Britain and The Netherlands through Ashdod.

● BETHLEHEM: Israeli soldiers yesterday snatched the body of a Palestinian teenager, shot dead by troops, after his funeral procession on the West Bank town turned into a stone-throwing mêlée.

## Pakistan election becomes three-cornered fight

By Edward Gorman

With campaigning for general elections due to begin at the weekend the tempo of change on the Pakistani political scene has picked up dramatically with new parties, political alliances and splits emerging daily.

While there is growing confidence that the elections - the first to be held on a party basis since 1977 - will go ahead, there have been continuing attempts by at least two of the incumbent provincial chief ministers to persuade President Ishtiaq Khan to postpone the polls beyond the scheduled date of November 16.

Intense political manoeuvring during the past week has simplified to some extent the highly fragmented political spectrum and consolidated the emergence of three principal blocs.

On the right, the two apparently irreconcilable wings of the Muslim League have sought to strengthen their positions with the formation of separate alliances with smaller subsidiary parties.

The left remains dominated by Miss Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party with

its allies in the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy, which is still tipped by most independent observers as likely to achieve a majority in a New National Assembly.

A fourth, hard-left group, the Left and Democratic Front, formed between six parties in Karachi on Sunday, is not thought likely to play a significant role.

The so-called Fida group, predominant in the current caretaker administration and identified closely with the conservative policies of the late President Zia, is emerging as the more powerful of the two Muslim League factions. After establishing the nine-party Islamic Democratic Alliance last week, its position was strengthened significantly on Monday with the addition of the most important and best-organized religious party, the Jamiat-ul-Islami.

Although Jamiat is not expected to win many seats (it will suffer from the rise of ethnically based groupings in urban areas of Sindh where it was strong in 1977) it lends further credibility to the Zia-inspired Islamization pro-



Miss Benazir Bhutto's first child, Bilawal Zardari, with her grandmother, Begum Nusrat Bhutto, at Karachi residence.

Prime Minister, announced the formation of the Pakistan People's Alliance on Sunday - a link-up with the secular Tehrik-i-Istislahi committed to the abolition of feudalism and the religious Jamiat Ulama-i-

Pakistan. Neither of these command wide support and analysts do not expect them to attract significant numbers of seats.

The overall impression is that Mr Jumejo, on a soft-right platform aimed at rebuilding the nation and solving what the party describes as the "heap of crucial internal and external problems" left by Zia, is steadily losing ground to his former colleagues in the Fida group.

One diplomatic analyst said he thought that many of Mr Jumejo's close supporters had stayed with him hoping that the elections would be postponed and the old assembly reconvened. The Supreme Court decision last week in favour of elections, he said, had started a drift away from the former Prime Minister back to the Fida group.

There is no doubt, however, that the split in the Muslim League is working to the advantage of the PPP and there are still hopes that a reconciliation can be engineered before campaigning begins on Saturday.

"Last ditch efforts are being made right now," commented

Dr Maleeha Lodhi, editor of the *Muslim newspaper*.

Others say Mr Jumejo, having committed himself in an alliance set to last five years, has effectively burnt his boats. "With the alliance process completed, Jumejo is now quite isolated from the other Muslim leaders," said Mr Hussain Haqqani, Islamabad correspondent of the *Far Eastern Economic Review*.

Meanwhile, the PPP, swamped by more than 18,000 applications for candidacy, has yet to announce its allocation of seats or its manifesto. With even her opponents recognizing that the party is likely to attract mass support, Miss Bhutto is expected in the coming weeks to go out of her way to make concessions to the establishment.

Although most observers remain confident the elections will happen, Mr Nawaz Sharif, the Punjab Chief Minister, and his counterpart in Sindh, Mr Ali G. Kazi are continuing efforts - widely seen as politically motivated - to try to persuade the President to postpone. The President, however, reaffirmed his commitment to the polls yesterday.



## Ideological duel over the Reagan boom years

## Dukakis homes in on middle-class insecurity

From Michael Binyon, Washington

President Reagan won two elections in a row with the simple question: "Are you better off now than you were four years ago?" In 1980 most voters answered "no" and Mr Reagan was in the White House. Four years later the reply was overwhelmingly "yes", and he won his second term.

This year, Vice-President George Bush and Governor Michael Dukakis are both asking the same question, but expecting different answers. Each is counting on a vital response in his favour not from the richest or the poorest, but from the middle class, the battleground of this election, where both Republicans and Democrats are focusing their campaigns increasingly.

Mr Bush is telling them that they have never had it so good. He points to a record period of growth, the creation of 15 million jobs in six years, higher family incomes, low inflation, and an unemployment

with statistics. For the Reagan boom has not been evenly distributed.

Economic inequality has been growing for 15 years, and the President's changes in the tax laws and cuts in federal programmes have accelerated the trend. Over the past 11 years, the rich have got richer and the poor poorer. The top 1 per cent of the population has seen its average income shoot up by 74 per cent from \$174,000 to \$304,000 (£179,000) a year. The poorest 10 per cent has seen its income, after inflation, drop by 10 per cent.

Mr Dukakis is exploiting these disquieting trends for all their political worth. His focus on what he calls the "Swiss cheese economy" is not on those 35.3 million people now officially categorized as living in poverty (up from 23 million in 1970) — they will almost certainly either for vote him anyway or not vote at all.

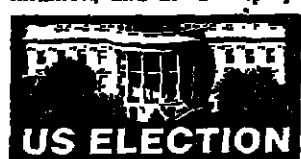
He is beaming his message at those who have to pay more for housing, health care and college tuition, and who find their lifestyle, values and middle-class goals squeezed by recent trends.

Mr Bush, in response, is emphasizing the general trickle-down effect of prosperity. But at the same time, he too is talking of tax credits for university education and health insurance and the need to improve standards in American schools.

He is campaigning strongly on the environment, calling himself the "education president" and, to the dismay of the diehard conservatives of Orange County, in the Republicans' southern California bastion, is playing down the



Governor Mario Cuomo of New York, left, and Mr Andrew Stein, president of the city council, laughing as Mr Dukakis is hugged by an elderly supporter.



ment rate of only 5.6 per cent, the lowest since 1972.

Mr Dukakis is painting a very different picture: lower individual earnings, the loss of five million jobs, health and education costs rising faster than inflation, a drop in real terms of the minimum wage, a larger number of people living below the poverty line, and a middle class barely back to where it was economically 10 or 15 years ago. Both are right, and both can back their claims

litmus tests of the right and calling instead for a "gentler, kinder nation". The middle-class vote in California, as elsewhere, is won less on ideology than on cheque-book concerns.

Middle-class anxiety is concentrated among the 30.5 million families with annual incomes of between \$20,000 and \$30,000. They are worried, in a general way, about the budget deficit because they fear that it could soon lead to a recession that would hit them hard. They see dangers in the

trade deficit, the loss of manufacturing jobs, and the takeover of many American companies by foreign firms.

They find increasingly that any improvement in living standards can be had only by both husband and wife working. So they are worried about child care, the difficulty in affording homes, and cuts in federal student loans.

Last year, about 65 per cent of mothers, including 51 per cent with infants under a year old, were either working or looking for jobs. In the past

eight years, home ownership — one of the goals of all Americans — has fallen for the first time since 1940 as house prices in the big cities have shot up. The percentage now owning homes has fallen from 61 to 53 since President Reagan took office.

Today, an average middle-class buyer has to save 50 per cent of his income for a down payment, compared with 33 per cent in 1978.

In education, a private university now costs more than \$12,000 a year per stu-

dent — about 40 per cent of an average family's income. Even a state university costs almost \$6,000 this year. A degree is now a necessity to avoid falling out of the middle class. Student loans have been cut back, and parents with two or more children in college at the same time find the burden almost intolerable.

In health care, insurance rates are rising and benefits falling as medical costs soar. The elderly are worried that Medicaid will not be sufficient, and "catastrophic" in-

surance has been slow in coming. Some 37 million Americans now have no health cover at all.

Mr Bush is campaigning on fears that a Democratic administration might rob the middle class of Reagan-era prosperity. "I'm not going to let them take it away from you" is his constant refrain. He continues to remind voters of the "risky index" in the Carter years — high inflation, high unemployment and high interest rates. But polls have found that the middle class —

who often form the key swing vote in marginal states — believe that Mr Dukakis is more likely to address their concerns than is Mr Bush.

Mr Bush has therefore begun subtly to distance himself from the Reagan record, suggesting that his administration would do better and would tackle those issues neglected over the past eight years. He has tried to switch attention away from economic worries to ideological concerns, talking of "values" and attacking liberalism sharply as a form of permissiveness at odds with middle-class values.

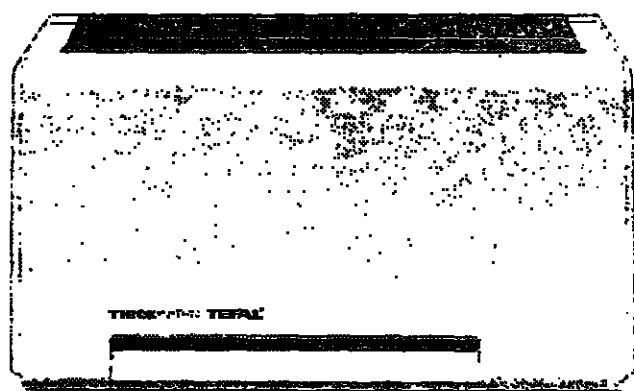
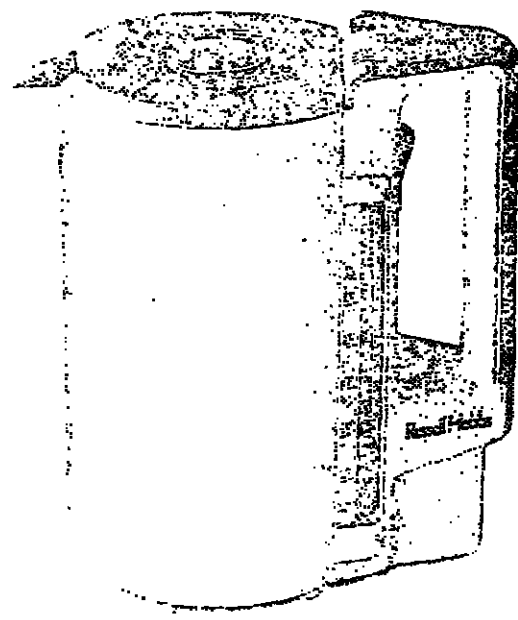
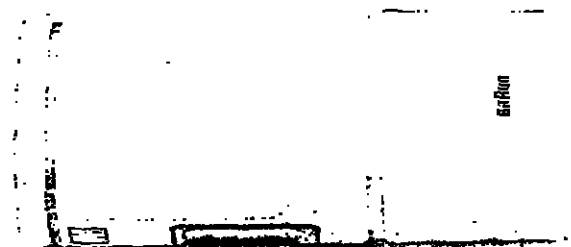
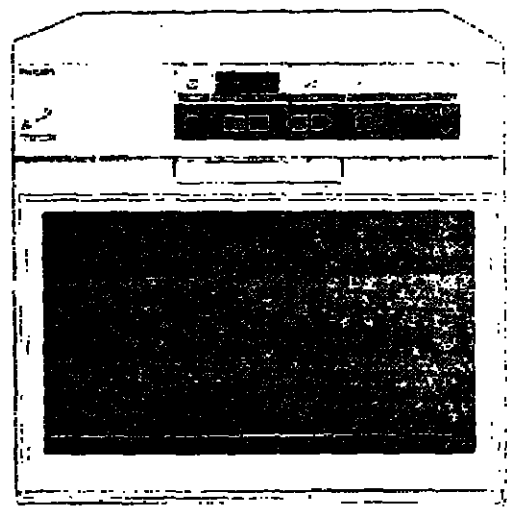
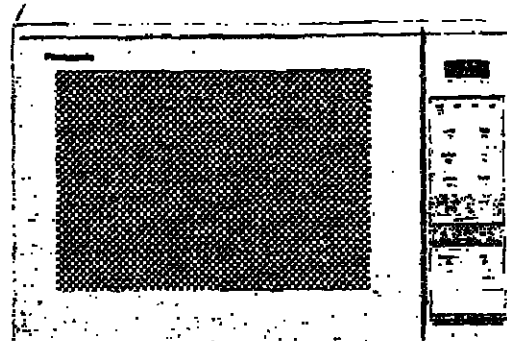
The Democrats are careful not to suggest more government spending as the answer to the middle-class squeeze. Mr Dukakis is making much of his penny-pinching reputation, and insisting that new programmes be started with private money or only pump-priming by the government. But he is in danger of making too much of job losses for a class that mainly has jobs, and at a time when things are looking up on the farms and in the old industrial Rust Belt.

So far neither candidate has dared to tackle the underlying issues that could cause the middle class the most concern: military spending, the relentless rise of spending for social security and the burden of budget deficits.

Independent economists say that whoever wins must consider a return to higher tax for the very rich, or some kind of national value-added tax.

But all ideas for solving the budget deficit involve more austerity for the middle and lower classes. And until their votes are in the bag no one is going to suggest increasing the burden for them.

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## Bush guns for rival in West

From Christopher Thomas, Seattle

Vice-President George Bush headed West yesterday armed with aggressive themes selected by campaign managers — largely unfettered ownership of guns and severe punishments for criminals.

The immediate focus is on the television debate with Governor Michael Dukakis tomorrow night in Los Angeles, and Mr Bush's themes are dear to Westerners' hearts.

The Vice-President's message is simple: the Massachusetts Governor is a soft liberal. The themes, which he will be hammering over the next 10 days, are being put into an overall law-and-order context because Republican polls reveal that tough talk on crime can influence the undecided.

Republican campaign workers are distributing tens of thousands of copies of a *Reader's Digest* article about the new federal Massachusetts prison holiday programme under which a convicted murderer, William Horton, escaped and committed rape and torture.

"For many years liberal thinkers thought it was compassionate to lighten up on sentencing, to allow early releases and furloughs," Mr Bush said. "There is something very wrong when there is so much sympathy for criminals and very little left over for victims."

To the chagrin of the Republicans, the last Bush-Dukakis debate, like last week's uneven encounter between Senator Dan Quayle and Senator Lloyd Bentsen, did much to boost Democratic morale. Mr Quayle's uninspiring performance against Mr Bentsen has put pressure on Mr Bush to revive and clarify his party's "peace and prosperity" message, which has become blurred amid noisy arguments about the young Indiana senator's qualifications to be "a heartbeat from the presidency."

Meanwhile, Mr Quayle has attempted yet another answer on what he would do if he suddenly assumed the top job. "If it is an assassination, the first thing to do is to get on the phone and call the head of the CIA and see what he thinks it was."

overall impact of Mr Quayle's performance in last week's debate was to shift about 2 per cent of the electorate to Mr Dukakis.

The Republicans are calculating that Mr Bush's verbal offensive on law and order will take attention away from Mr Quayle. The Vice-President's position on gun control and crime appears to have reinforced his strength in the South and Rocky Mountain states, helping to put a probable 150 to 200 electoral votes — 270 are needed to win — out of Mr Dukakis's reach.

The tactic of choosing simple, clear issues bears the stamp of Mr James Baker, the Bush campaign manager, who specializes in disciplined political management.

He is applying to this campaign the same techniques he used as White House Chief of Staff in President Reagan's first term, and during the 1984 re-election campaign.

Under the Baker formula, Mr Bush produces a theme every day, sticks to a set of closely defined tactics, and

avoids the temptation to chase after every issue raised by opponents.

Mr Baker's tactics are based on the lessons of 20 years of Republican supremacy in most national campaigns. Mr Richard Nixon, Mr Gerald Ford and Mr Ronald Reagan also used packaging techniques to exploit television and protect the candidate from his own mistakes.

Sometimes, the gimmickry becomes too obvious and backfires; senior Republican aides acknowledge that Mr Bush's visit to a factory making American flags went too far.

New technology has transformed one key characteristic of presidential campaigning: in the past the candidate's travelling operation was the nerve centre, with top advisers staying on the campaign trail so they could make decisions on the spot.

This time, computerized satellite communications have turned Republican headquarters in Washington into the nerve centre.

The survey gives Mr Bush a 50-47 per cent lead, but a margin of error of plus or minus four points means the race appears to be a dead-heat. The poll suggested that the

Senator Dan Quayle

● If the President is assassinated, the first thing to do is to get on the phone and call the head of the CIA and see what he thinks it was ●

● If the President is assassinated, the first thing to do is to get on the phone and call the head of the CIA and see what he thinks it was ●

● If the President is assassinated, the first thing to do is to get on the phone and call the head of the CIA and see what he thinks it was ●

A better buy at Boots





## Serbia seeks purge of 'obstructive' Yugoslav leaders

From Richard Bassett and Deana Trevisan, Belgrade

Mr Slobodan Milosevic, the militant head of the Yugoslav republic of Serbia, yesterday set the scene for next week's national Central Committee meeting by announcing that his party would be seeking a massive purge of the leaders whom it blames for the country's economic and ethnic crisis.

He said after a meeting of the Serbian central committee, convened hurriedly and obviously intended to exert pressure on the Yugoslav leadership, that there could be no political or economic reforms without a thorough shake-up of the party. Mr Milosevic declared that the people who had been obstructing change could not remain in office.

He saw that the prime task of the forthcoming Yugoslav Assembly was to confront all who were responsible for the crisis, and to carry out necessary personnel changes, similar to those instigated in the Serbian leadership a year ago when there was a purge of officials accused of compromising with the demands of Albanian separatists in the autonomous province of Kos-

ovo. Mr Milosevic said that the rallies which had been staged over the past few months, and suspected by opponents to have been organized by the Serbian leadership, represented "a war launched by the communists and citizens against individual leaders" and popular pressure to bring about the necessary economic and political changes.

His statement came after the President of the Yugoslav party, Mr Stipe Savić, paid a hurried visit to Kosovo yesterday as tension between Serbs and ethnic Albanians in the area continued to rise. The meeting between the President and the Kosovo leadership had been brought forward by 24 hours because of the mounting Serbian pressure for the dismissal of the Kosovo party leadership.

The Serbian leaders hold the Kosovo leaders responsible for the lack of progress in meeting "Serbian grievances" in the province.

The leadership in Slovenia has been accusing Serbia of orchestrating the wave of demonstrations across the country and of submitting to

"the pressures of the mob" and "endangering the constitutional order of Yugoslavia". On Sunday, the Slovene leadership issued a statement after the Montenegrin authorities used force to break up a Serbian protest in Titograd. It explicitly accused Mr Milosevic of inspiring the demonstrations in Montenegro in order to strengthen his attempts to secure constitutional changes which will give Serbia full control over Kosovo and Vojvodina, the other autonomous province in Serbia.

In Vojvodina, the entire leadership was ousted last week after mass demonstrations. An enthusiastic purge of all the lower cadres in the party there has been going on this week.

In the most hostile exchanges between two republics in Yugoslavia's postwar history, the Serbian leadership rejected these charges. The communiqué expressed "deep indignation" at the Slovene accusations, which it described as "untrue and malicious". Slovenia was spreading "rabid Serbo-phobia", it concluded.

## RAF displays its power over Sydney



Four F3 Tornadoes from 29 Squadron, the Royal Air Force, roaring spectacularly over Circular Quay, Sydney, yesterday to help raise the curtain on the Australian Bicentenary Air Show, which opens at Richmond air base today. The fly-past was led by the squadron's commanding officer, Wing-Commander Lloyd Doble. Britain's Falcon parachute team staged a jump.

## 13 dead as forces fire on mobs in Sri Lanka

Colombo — At least 13 people were killed yesterday in southern Sri Lanka as the militant People's Liberation Organization (JVP) protested against the merger of the Northern and Eastern provinces.

Mr P. Udugampola, the Deputy Inspector General of Police, said security forces had been forced to fire on rioting mobs in various southern towns as JVP members attacked police stations and government buildings.

## Marcos deal

Los Angeles (AFP) — The US is seeking an agreement with Mr Ferdinand Marcos in which, for surrendering millions of dollars he is accused of stealing, he would not be sent to prison, *The Los Angeles Times* reported.

## Tower strike

Paris (AP) — Strikers demanding higher pay and bonuses closed down the Eiffel Tower for the fourth successive day after talks with the city management failed.

## Mafia slaying

Reggio Calabria, Italy (Reuters) — Demetrio Serrano, aged 48, a suspected boss of the Mafia, was murdered as he was having a shave in a barber shop, police said.

## Mujahidin lose patience with 'Gucci' bosses

From Edward Gorman, Peshawar

Mr Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, the feared and ruthless leader of the Hezb-i Islami faction of the Mujahidin resistance, served up his characteristic mixture of charm and studied humility at a press conference here on Saturday to mark his return from a rare trip inside Afghanistan.

Looking unusually tanned and clutching his sparkling white prayer beads, the normally gaunt figure with the black silk turban was every bit the statesman. With the aid of his interpreter, Mr Nawab Saleem, he spoke eloquently of the continuing progress of the resistance and of the *jihad* (Holy War), of the need for democratic elections to the government of a future liberated Afghanistan, and of his criticism of the Soviet Union's continued support for the ailing Kabul regime.

On a more sinister note, he also warned his fellow resistance leaders not to ignore him when the spoils of victory are handed out: "A government without the support or participation of Hezb-i Islami cannot rule Afghanistan — it is out of the question."

To the untrained eye it was an impressive performance, apparently reflecting broad and genuine support among the rank and file. But, in common with all of the so-called "Peshawar Seven" exiled resistance leaders, Mr Hekmatyar's power — and with it his chances of playing a role in Afghanistan's future — is being eroded with every day that the final victory over Kabul becomes more certain.

Perhaps the best-informed Western analyst here explained: "What everyone predicted for the longest time is happening. Power is shifting from the political parties in Peshawar to the commanders inside Afghanistan."

His views on the Peshawar-based interim government formed earlier this year, known as the Alliance, are damning. "All Afghans and everyone else who looks at it can see that it is not broad-based, that it is staffed by unqualified people and that it was created by pressure from outside. It has very little hope — probably none — of ever functioning."

The reasons why the apparent leaders of the resistance look least likely to benefit from what is generally seen here as the inevitable victory, at last in sight, are straightforward but deeply rooted.

Over the years relations between the leaders have been characterized by a chronic inability to agree on even the most straightforward of issues. What unity they have achieved was imposed largely by the late President Zia, who moulded an arbitrary choice

of seven parties into an alliance and kept it together by declaring that only by staying in the Alliance could the parties receive vital weapons and aid supplies.

In the meantime, the leaders and their followers have become tainted by what many ordinary Afghans believe is the corrupting influence of Western money — the Mercedes, the huge mansions in Peshawar's fashionable University Town suburb, and forays by the so-called "Gucci guerrillas" into Western capitals for distinctly un-Islamic pursuits.

None of this has impressed the fighting men inside Afghanistan, who feel that they are making the genuine sacrifices and have grown steadily more impatient with their masters in exile. Some have made no secret of the fact that their continuing allegiance over two years has been

based purely on the need for weapons, and that once the war is over they will finally cut free.

Mr Hekmatyar is an exception. As the only instinctive politician with what many observers believe are the rare qualities of a potential dictator, his fanatical Islamic revolutionary fervour has hardly been blighted by Western money.

In his case, the ruthless ambition which has raised its ugly head in the kidnapping and murder of opponents and a policy of full-scale attacks on rival resistance commanders in the field, has left him steadily more isolated.

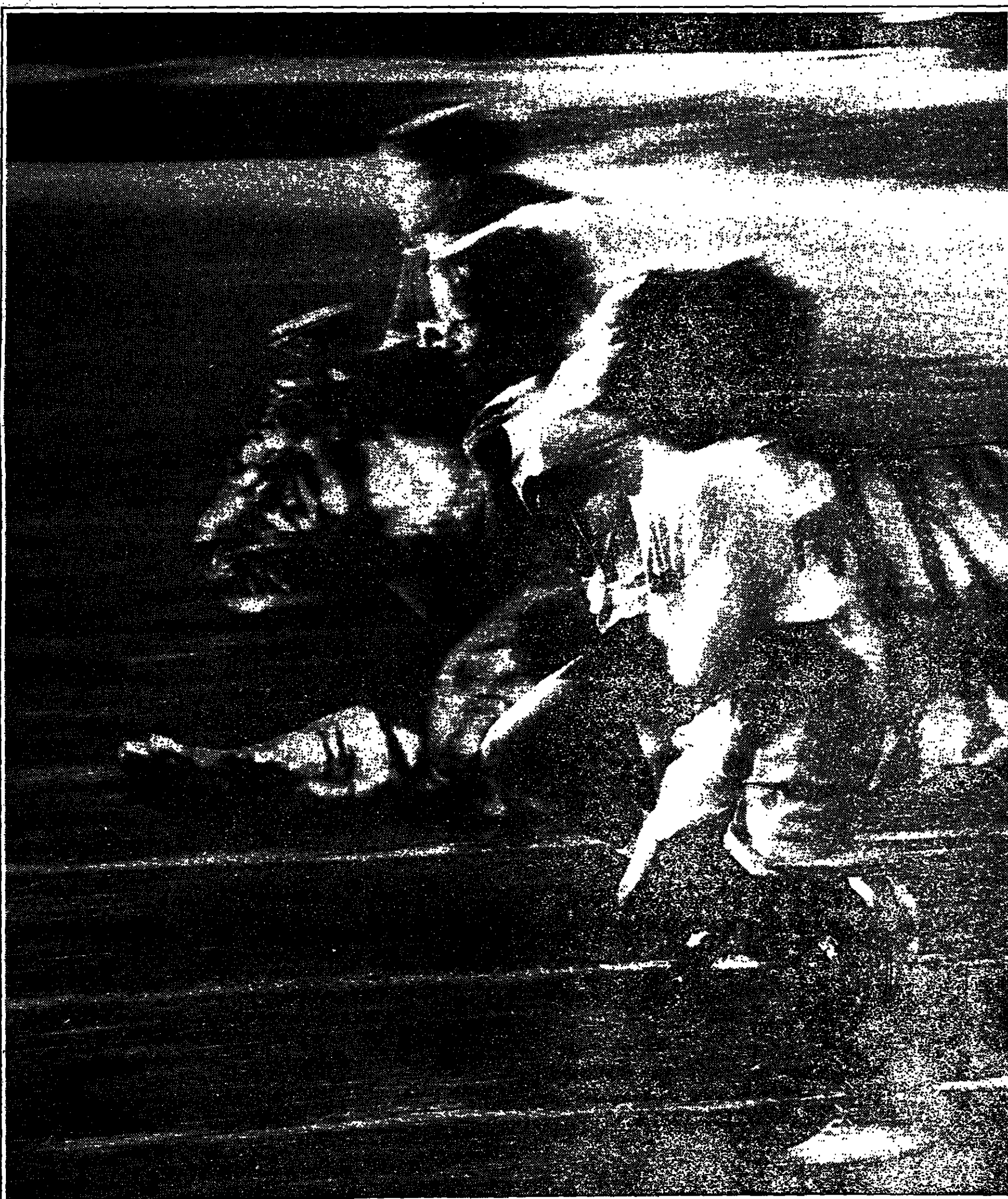
After making the mistake of kidnapping foreign aid workers and allowing his men to be implicated in the murder of a British journalist travelling in Afghanistan, Mr Hekmatyar has made an attempt in recent months to present a more reasonable image, with talk about democratic elections.

The analyst said: "He is using that as cover to try to make himself look acceptable to Western nations. He has managed to pull the wool over some people's eyes who really believe he is a democrat."

Mr Hekmatyar's trump card, however, is that despite entrenched hostility among his fellow Afghans, Pakistan continues to treat him as the most desirable future leader of Afghanistan.

But Pakistan's support may not be enough because Mr Hekmatyar's organization, though well-organized, is weak militarily.

The balance of power in Afghanistan after what is seen here as a relatively rapid collapse of the Communist regime following the completion of the Soviet withdrawal, will be in the hands of the commanders, with most analysts predicting a return to a fragmented power structure and a weak — even irrelevant — central authority in Kabul.



## Giving youngsters a sporting chance.

The Esso Youth Sports Programme has now been running for 15 years.

Each year about 1.5 million young tigers aged 8-18 take part in events all over the UK. And they compete on tracks, pitches, courses and in pools.

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The AAA 5-Star Scheme is a typical example, comprising some 36 athletic disciplines including pentathlon, decathlon, and cross-country.

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But the high-flyers are not the only ones to

benefit. Physically handicapped children join in too and over 1 million 5-Star Scheme certificates are issued every year.

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Mr Hekmatyar: Issued a sinister warning to rivals.



## SPECTRUM

## The minister who threw a spanner in the works

"I don't know how long it was before it suddenly dawned on me that the man who had changed my wheel was none other than the transport minister, Peter Bottomley," said Mrs Maureen Whitfield, aged 44, following her rescue from a puncture on the A3.

Such practical, on-the-spot application of his ministerial duties has earned Mr Bottomley a great deal of good publicity. His colleagues — already crippled with jealousy at his stunning resemblance to the Milky Bar Kid — have spent the last couple of days attempting to follow his example within the calling of their own ministries.

Already, unconfirmed rumours of further help to Mrs Maureen Whitfield, aged 44, by immaculately dressed men have been pouring in. "I don't know how long it was before it suddenly dawned on me that the man who had cut my hedge

was the Environment Secretary, Mr Nicholas Ridley," said Mrs Maureen Whitfield, aged 44.

"I only became absolutely sure that it was him when I noticed that he had removed the entire hedge to make way for a major new development complex, including industrial units, residential facilities and on-site drive-in megastore."

Make way, make way for Europe! Much has been heard in recent months of the government's exciting plans to make Britain aware of the intricacies of Europe by 1992, but there has been little coverage of the many training courses now available on the Continent to help Europeans understand more about Britain. In the next few weeks, this column will take a long, hard look — altered to a short, soft look in compliance

with EEC regulations — at the many interesting courses in British traditions now open to the go-ahead European executive.

How To Understand the British Sense of Humour is a two-year degree course open to executives wishing to know when to laugh at light entertainment on British radio and television.

Students on this course learn that, because the British are so busy priding themselves on a sense of humour and boasting about being able to laugh at themselves, they can no longer find time to make up their minds as to what is funny. The Royal Institute of Studio Audiences is a body of 300 or so ordinary men and women highly-skilled at detecting humour in the following, and



CRAIG BROWN

therefore in great demand from producers:

(A) Two single women sharing a flat with a single man — with hilarious results!

(B) A man living next door to his ex-wife — with hilarious results!

(C) A vicar being greeted at the door by a man in an apron sharing a flat with his ex-wife — with hilarious results!

(D) A man in an apron on holiday with his two female flat-mates trying to make himself understood by the natives while being overheard by his ex-wife and a vicar — with hilarious results!

As president of the Institute of Studio Audiences, the Queen Mother is this year striving for an advanced diploma, and has already gone into training for a

Royal Variety show that includes acts such as Bruce Forsyth, Ronnie Corbett, Paul Daniels and the entire cast of Neighbours. Experts predict that this will be her most demanding smiling challenge since it's A Royal Knockout.

On Desert Island Discs, Mr Salman Rushdie, surveying his time as an advertising copywriter, declared that it was he who had coined the slogan "Naughty but Nice" to sell fresh cream. He has made this claim quite often over the years, but now, for the first time, the company who once employed him, Ogilvy and Mather, perhaps irritated by his suggestions of racism in the advertising industry, have accused him of fibbing.

Was the slogan Rushdie's or not? It is hard to know who to believe. From a reading of Rushdie's works it seems

likely that his own slogan would have been rather more downbeat, along the lines of "Nasty but Neurotic", "Silted but Sour", or "Deadly but Dull". The but Sour", or "Deadly but Dull". The Cream Advisory Council, or whoever decides these matters, was probably wise to plump for the more appealing "Naughty but Nice", but now that Mr Rushdie's books are selling so well, Ogilvy and Mather would be well advised to bury their differences and sign up Rushdie and his oeuvre, encouraging him to retile his early books for promotional purposes, thereby selling more cream to a mass readership. "Aldnight Children Just Love A Mid-night Eclair", "Shame There's Not A night Eclair", "The Jaguar Smiles", "Dollop, Mum", "The Jaguar Smiles", "Cos He's Just Swallowed A Meringue" would all do much to encourage Mr Rushdie's expanding readership to expand still further.

Within two years the City has soared, the trees have toppled and the share index has collapsed — and now for more drama

Anniversaries of huge disasters are a comfort when those who endured them can sit and swap tall stories of how they survived. This luxury few in the City of London can afford: a year after they wended their way to their offices through the devastated timber of the Great Gale, those made rich and occasionally infamous by the Big Bang found that the Great Crash had left things very bad. Worse will come.

These three dates of dire superlative are linked. It was the Bang (October 27, 1986) that created in the financial markets a frenetic boom. It was the Gale (October 15/16, '87) which closed the London Stock Exchange and penned market-makers in their homes on the day they should have been covering their flanks against a sudden fall on Wall Street. Their efforts, when they reached their desks on Monday, October 19, to cover themselves at all costs were part of the complex mechanism which tripped the Crash.

By then we had all become so drenched in tales of excessive rewards linked to extravagant behaviour in the City, that this evidence of sudden come-uppance would have left even more people wearing deplorably smug grins — were it not that nine million Britons were by now shareholders. All suffered.

You cannot tell the story of the City's bleak year in terms of the number of cancelled Porsches, or of how only non-vintage champagne is thrown up over fellow travellers leaving Liverpool Street after the Square Mile bars have shut. The consequences of the Crash prove rather deeper than that. Indeed, many in the City believe that the other shoe has yet to fall and when it does its landing will be thunderous.

First, the scale of the Crash. Losses of 22 per cent of share values reduced the amount of business by more than half — it comforts no one when statisticians claim that markets merely returned to 1985 levels, that the boom of 1986/7 was no more than a heady blip.

For this was not what was so boisterously anticipated when the Big Bang loomed. Privatization was a crusade. Owning shares was not only fashionable but made such sense — see, just look at the prices, the profits! More, these are

the years of the first Inheritance Generation: artisans who bought suburban homes for £2,500 in 1948 are beginning to die and leave to their children property worth sums that once would have been worth a mention in This Week's Wills.

The banks of the world want the business represented by this inherited investment wealth, estimated by David Morton, of the London School of Economics, at £24 billion a year. Deregulation gave them their chance. No longer would the wholesaling of shares be monopolized by only five "jobbers" at the Stock Exchange; in the months around the Bang, the number of "market-makers" offering shares rose to 38.

Staffing these new all-electronic dealing rooms was crucial. Hunting solved some newcomers' problems. One dealer lost all 10 of

BRIAN JAMES



GOES TO THE CITY

his young men in a day; they had joined another bank for a collective signing-on bonus of £3 million, that is £300,000 each earned before their first day's work. Many other firms, according to one City stockbroker, "signed up monkeys" — flash young street-smart men with the minds of bookies' clerks — anyone to man the telephones and rattle figures off a screen.

Since the Crash — when the collective losses over five continents were running at one thousand billion dollars — corners have been cut. Some estimate that 10,000 City jobs have vanished and add forecasts of 50,000 under threat. This misleads, because the figures include short-term market-makers and an army of temporary clerks and photocopyers sent in by agencies to do the paperwork that followed the sales patter.

Some "savings" seem bizarre. A company that used to allow its monkeys loose with Gold Amex cards to take potential clients for a

## Bang, crash, and crunch

day at Ascot has since cancelled home newspaper subscriptions for staff and makes them share magazines when they reach the office. Another announces that there will be no annual distribution to staff earnings from £50,000 to £200,000 a year of a turkey and a ham at Christmas.

These seem oddly peripheral measures from a community that used to talk of "serious" wages spent on "serious" drinking to make them "seriously" witty, but which now faces circumstances bleak enough to restore dictionary meaning to the word. "Business is so quiet we get up and run a lap of honour around the bank of screens when we do a deal," one market-maker says. Semi-seriously.

One statistic: the Barclay de Zoete Wedd trading group announces that it faces overheads of £750,000 a day to cover the costs of wages, office space and technology. But the current commission income of the whole of the City (approximately £1.5 million) is only twice that. So BZW would need to earn half the income of the entire industry to break even.

One way traders try to make ends meet is to filch business from each other. Not openly. Spokesmen talk loftily of "rationalization of the spread" (the difference between the buying and selling price of each share). A manager from Scrimgeour Vickers, who chose to remain unnamed, was more blunt. "It's price-cutting. Cut-throat, just like the High Street. We were about the fourth to get into it. Yes, it is about killing off the weakest. We are still recruiting, but anyone who comes aboard will have to justify his salary. The days when it was about filling the place with bums on seats so that you could flood the market are over. By next year, there will be sackings. There is still a lot of pain to come."

More than a little pain has been experienced by a man called John (he prefers no other identification) who began to work for a stockbroker last week, his first employment since he was sacked in February. Before being fired he had been head-hunted from a British bank to work in Euro-bonds by a £85,000 salary, plus bonuses and perks that doubled the value of the package. "We didn't live flashily. Nice car, nice house, three foreign holidays a year. Sitting in the train going to this new job last September, I started dreaming dreams. In 10 years, with the savings I knew I could make, I would have £500,000 tucked away, and retire. The dream lasted three weeks — until the Crash. They called me in, handed me one month's money, and asked for my car keys. After

eight months we were living on unemployment benefit and it was as much as we could take. When this new job saved us, we had already decided to sell the house, move way up to Northumbria where homes were cheap, and put the house proceeds into a pub or a newsgate. A lot of my friends have faced this and lots more will."

Paul Harrison, on the institutional sales team of County NatWest, was on Wall Street when the Crash came. He says people imagined great excitement, hectic racing about. But it was not like that.

There was just shock. Disbelief. Puzzlement. "With hindsight, we



Rushing to market: crowds hurry over London Bridge to the City at the start of a working day — but they could be heading to bad news

## No consultation, so no cuts?

Kenneth Baker's Education Reform Bill may place a high priority on the importance of parent power, but the action now simmering in the troubled London borough of Brent is quite what his legislation had in mind.

On Monday night a group of about 100 parents and teachers from 14 schools in the borough, anxious about the effects of staffroom redundancies imposed by the town hall as the first step in a £17 million programme of spending cuts, resolved to take legal action against the council.

Today is the second day of a three-day strike called by the National Union of Teachers at seven of the borough's secondary schools in which its members have received redundancy notices.

The outcome of the parents' campaign, based on the complaint that Brent is failing to comply with the terms of the 1944 and 1986 Education Acts in its alleged failure to provide an adequate teaching service, will be closely watched by other authorities caught between Government-imposed spending restrictions and increased public awareness.

For while Brent acknowledges that there has been a shortfall in the number of its teachers in the past, it is adamant that today it is one of the few boroughs in London actually meeting its staffing requirements. It is a statement hotly contested by parents of secondary school children, not least at Aylestone, where they point out that pupils in the first and second years of A level studies now have to share classes in all subjects other than English and mathematics. They also complain that as a result of the cuts the German course will be ended at half-term in a fortnight's time.

Brent council's plans to get rid of 232 teachers are simply illegal, it is argued. Nobody asked the parents for permission



Up in arms: other councils planning cuts are watching the Brent parents' action with alarm

The essential difference about this campaign is that instead of appealing to the town hall (they have done that already), the parents are proposing to have its decision-making process made the subject of a judicial review. If such an inquiry finds that the council did indeed act unlawfully in seeking to make 232 of its teachers redundant, Brent could be obliged to reinstate those who wish to have their jobs back.

Of that number, more than half, the majority of whom are from the primary, supply and special support sectors, left their employment on September 30: of the remaining 94 secondary teachers, more than two thirds are expected to leave by half-term. The remaining 25, the council

says, will be offered jobs at other schools in the borough. But it is the principal of communication, as much as the stark fact of numbers involved, that has caused the anger of some parents. In seeking to have a judicial review implemented, they are working in conjunction with the Brent Law Centre, which asserts that there was "plainly" no notification of head teachers or parent or other governors, let alone anything which might be called consultation, before a special meeting of the education committee took its decision on the 232 redundancies on September 15.

Despite that apparent lack of consultation, the centre says, a parents' joint consultative committee scheduled for the previous day, September

14, was cancelled on the grounds that there was no business for it to consider. This bitter charge, that there was a total absence of consultation between the education committee and key members of the schools involved, is, alarmingly perhaps, not denied by the council.

Councillor Len Snow, vice-chair of the committee, and a man closely involved with schooling in the borough for the past 25 years, gives the following explanation: "The council's financial position was given to us by the official auditors in July. We then had about a month in which to reach our basic decisions about redundancies. After this, it was a matter of the officers having to go away and work how these should be

implemented. All this took place during the summer holidays, when there really was no question of us being able to undertake full consultation."

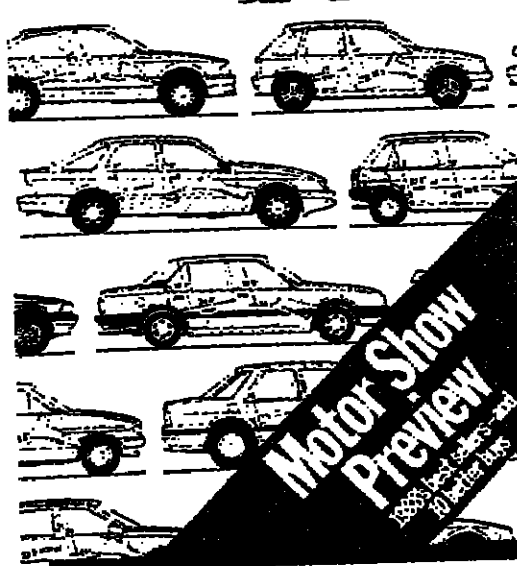
"I really understand their grievances. But we have tried to explain that we were obliged by law to issue these redundancy notices when we did. We have also done our best to show that we will offer employment in other schools... I have to say that I don't think that strike action, or indeed expensive legal action is likely to help matters. It would be much more helpful if the parents concerned, instead of running off to the law centre, came and spoke to us directly."

This is not the first time that parents in Brent have clashed with the town hall. Only last week they were appealing to Kenneth Baker to take control of the borough's schools and run them directly from Whitehall. They feared that without direct and drastic action from the government, the local education system would face the danger of collapse. As if that were not enough, the front of the town hall has been littered with plastic rubbish bags dumped by residents complaining at the deterioration of refuse services as a result of a 44 per cent in refuse collectors.

According to Ken Livingstone, Labour MP for Brent East, who three months ago accused the council of "Pol Pot tactics", Brent Council has made the GLC look like a model of efficiency. "They can either make the cuts or run the risk, like Lambeth, of not making them and of being further service by the courts. The councillors are terrified, but they should make a stand."

Alan Franks

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# TIMES DIARY

ALAN COREN

There are some seven of them here, on this chilly Saturday night, and they are called Ragtag and Albigedus and Scorpio and Doghouse and Nibor and Bloo, but they look normal enough. Indeed, given that they are of clever people in the world, the fact that they appear so normal—greeting, chortling, sniggering—is perhaps the most unsettling element of the whole affair. Especially as they have chosen to forego the fourth floor of the Drury Lane Hotel, one of those Legoland hotels in which men who look not unlike those currently present convene to celebrate record annual sales of chipboard shelving and cut-price alarm systems and xerixette calculator cosies.

Some of these, of course, may do just that, when they are not carrying out the arcane duties which attach to being Salamanca, or Gong, or Eel. For they have other lives somewhere, under normal names, at normal desks and workbenches, going home, doubtless, to normal mates in normal houses. Though you would not guess so tonight: tonight, the outsider feels himself to have walked into the wonky world of Greene and Chesterton and Buchan. This is the Club of Queer Trades, whose members chat in riddles and laugh in code.

For this is the annual dinner of those who set *The Listener* crossword, that infamous weekly cerebrotic which leaves Nobel laureates bouncing off the rubber walls of sanatoria, and drives Senior Wranglers to plunge terminally into the Cam. One glance tells you why *agon* fathered *agony*. And since I professionally baffle the world's two most famous crosswords, as editor there and columnist here, you will appreciate my mixed feelings upon learning, over the kipper past, that my Saturday neighbour, Phil, does *The Times* crossword in under four minutes.

Esoteric rages boil. A recent puzzle, lunatically complicated by a rubric explaining that every word in it was a misprint, is roundly attacked by some sadist complaining that the misprints were not unfathomable enough. Another agitated buff wants me to run crosswords in colour, so that a further dimension of incomprehensibility may be stirred in the clue. A third addict explains that reading has become difficult, since even a bedtime chapter of *Winnie the Pooh* presents him with a hundred anagrams, and murders sleep.

How strange it is, to have this intellectual firestorm in notional thrall. These could be my Tontons Macoutes, my Green Berets, my SAS! If only I could combine and channel these extraordinary ratiocinative forces, what might I not... Fortunately for world equilibrium, they are immeasurably smarter than I am. All they want to do is cobble crosswords together.

BARRY FANTONI



'Film of the Book I understand  
—but Book of the Book?'

I wonder, though, what they—for all their brilliance—would have answered had I asked them about lead-free petrol? As a man attempting to raise both children and taxes, I grow increasingly irritable about the insurance with which bright, influential and otherwise concerned folk refuse to inform themselves about the muck which is rotting brains and foliage alike, and which may be easily and cheaply reduced.

On Sunday, we played lunchtime hosts to friends for whom the foregoing qualifications are the barest blueprint of decency. They are not only good and worthy people, they also carry clout. The group contained one of our wisest MPs, a national newspaper editor, three responsible journalists, a couple of honourable lawyers, the managing director of a large company, and four senior doctors. Beyond the windows, the acid rain was scything into the garden, and nudged by a stray remark about a venerable acacia tree I have which is going down with 100-octane scrofula, the talk turned to lead-free petrol. Everyone had a lot to say, not all of it uncivil, about the recent greening of Mrs Thatcher, until, on a suspicious whim, I asked them about their own cars.

Not only did none of them drive on lead-free petrol, not a single soul even knew whether their car was capable of doing so, nor had made any inquiry about the cheap and simple job of converting it if it wasn't. Shocking, really: when there is so little one is able personally to do about holes in the ozone layer, or the destabilizing expansion of the rain forests, or the ghastly fouling of the oceans, you would think, would you not, that the rare opportunity actually to bring some benefit to the poor old environment—and the children doomed to inherit it—would be eagerly grasped?

Sorry for the rhetoric. Just trying to clear the air.

I do not, however, apologize for the dandiness of "You would think, would you not." You should not need to be a *Listener* cryptologist to spot it as a tribute to *Listener* Harry, from whose memorial service I have just returned, and the echo of whose unforgettable locutions resonated through St James's, Piccadilly, with that special poignancy lost voices have.

It was a fine, apt, ringing celebration, a concatenation of Blackburn and Hollywood, *Broadway Baby* and the *Biggest Aspidochelone* in the world sung in earnest, heartfelt and brainthought addresses delivered by Ned Sherrin and John Birt and Sue Lawley and Penelope Keith and Alan Bennett, and underneath the everlasting arms. But at the end of it all, the voice that lingered in the memory was the one we hadn't heard.

No one can accuse Kenneth Clarke of lying low in his new job as Health Secretary. In five weeks he has taken on the health service unions, nurses and managers. The unions are already angry, the nurses upset and the managers defensive.

Although nurses' pay will probably dominate his speech at the Tory party conference in Brighton tomorrow, his greatest challenge is the National Health Service review. Here Clarke is intent on stamping his own mark. An extended review team was formed on his return from his Spanish holiday and a new energy injected into the deliberations on containing costs and increasing efficiency within the NHS.

Already talking of "my review", he has to ensure that quality is not sacrificed in the moves to introduce competition and that local initiatives are not stifled. Good ideas which have already sprung up from within the NHS such as internal markets, joint venture schemes, medical audits and clinical budgets could be built on.

The review is gathering pace with a White Paper now expected in December or January. Clarke, a more ardent NHS supporter than John Moore, his

predecessor, has pushed aside proposals for blanket tax relief for private health insurance and opted out of the NHS.

Instead he is pressing for greater independence for NHS hospitals, rewards for skill and efficiency, improved communications and tougher controls on treatment and drug costs. He has also revived the idea of allowing GPs to hold the purse strings for primary and hospital health provision.

The review should culminate in a White Paper advocating a series of pilot schemes to test half a dozen ideas which have been submitted to the Prime Minister over the last nine months. There will be no Big Bang but legislative proposals would be sufficiently general to allow any of the schemes to be taken up nationally. Such caution is fitting since so far there is little evidence that any of these ideas will result in a more

cost-effective health service. Giving family doctors budgets to buy hospital services for their patients is now one of Clarke's most far-reaching ideas. It surfaced briefly at the beginning of the year but was dropped after meeting opposition from some of the review team who argued that GPs knew little about finance or management. As it would encourage greater provision of services in GP surgeries, it is also opposed by consultants and managers. But Clarke has urged his civil servants to continue work on the idea.

Initially only general surgery would be involved. Accident and emergency services would have to be excluded from the scheme since patients might require treatment hundreds of miles away from their local GP. A single-handed GP would be unable to cope with the extra workload so the scheme would

have to operate at group practices or via the existing family practitioner committees which administer GP services.

GPs given annual budgets based on a per capita sum plus an age allowance, would negotiate with hospital consultants on the costs of treating their patients. The contracts with NHS or private hospitals would cover all hospital expenses including manpower, laboratory tests and hospital drugs.

Most hospitals do not have enough information on their own costs to be able to set realistic fees, and a new method developed in the United States, and used elsewhere, is being introduced. Based on diagnostic related groups, or DRGs, treatments are classified according to their diagnosis and then weighted for special factors such as age and complications.

Hospitals, or consultants, which managed to treat patients

below the standard DRG would be able to plough the "profit" into other services. Similarly GPs who underspent their annual budget could either spend the money on improving their practice or keep the excess for the following year.

DRGs are now being tested in England as part of a series of "resource management" experiments, based in six acute-case hospitals, aimed at making doctors more accountable for the costs of treatment.

Rough costings, or "tariffs", for about 470 different procedures are expected to be available in the next financial year. These tariffs will also be essential to set up a successful internal market in which NHS hospitals trade with one another and the private sector.

Other ideas expected to be piloted include management changes designed to separate funding from delivery and the

creation of a greater mix of private and NHS care.

These ideas, put forward by think tanks such as the Centre for Policy Studies and the Adam Smith Institute, involve setting up separate organizations to arrange and buy care for patients on their lists from independently run hospitals in the NHS or the private sector. Joint private/NHS capital ventures and charging for non-medical trials also still figure on the agenda.

In between review meetings Clarke is also pushing policies most likely to lead to greater independence and flexibility at hospital level. He has signalled his determination to introduce his geographical variations in nurses' pay and he intends to extend performance-related pay to 7,000 middle and junior managers in the NHS.

Legislation from the White Paper is unlikely to be in place before 1990 so sweeping reforms for the NHS, if there are to be any, look likely to be left until after the next election—provided the Conservatives win.

Clarke needs to be wary of antagonizing the very staff who will have to push through any reforms. An announcement of more cash for nurses tomorrow could sugar the pill.

Jill Sherman reports on the latest proposals for NHS reform

## Clarke's wary prescription

David Willetts

## Rout of the big spenders



on when presented with a proposal for more spending is that it may be a nice thing, but we can't afford it. That argument is more difficult to use when the economy is booming. But the budget deficit is so serious that it is clear that any new spending will mean extra taxes. Higher taxes remain unpopular, so very few proposals are being put forward for new federal spending programmes.

What is happening now in America is not a glimpse of Britain's future; it is instead a reminder of how the 1987 election campaign could have gone. It was very tempting for the Conservatives to try to repeat the 1983 formula and fight on a bland manifesto, but Mrs Thatcher took the bold decision to work on radical ideas for the next manifesto—housing, education reform and electricity privatization, for example.

Seeing George Bush now hurriedly inserting ideas like child-care tax credit into his platform demonstrates that, despite the difficulties, it was right for the Prime Minister to seize the initiative on social issues—otherwise you leave a vacuum that the opposition can enter.

The mistake made by George Bush and the Republicans was to rely too heavily on a safe "peace and prosperity" appeal; he learnt his mistake just in time. Although it will be a close-run thing, most people now expect Bush to win. The tide of ideas is not flowing in favour of traditional policies of taxing and spending in America any more than it is here.

Bush will also have one advantage overlooked by the sophisticated commentators—he has painfully and slowly become quite a good speaker, whereas Dukakis's speech is in clipped phrases with a high-pitched monotone and a dying fall. It is most unusual for candidates who speak as badly as that to be elected to lead democratic countries.

The author is director of studies at the Centre for Policy Studies.

care of all old Americans. The most significant feature of these two measures is that neither was simply forced on the President by a Democratic Congress; he himself put them on the agenda when he could have carried on stone-walling.

The American political agenda is shifting. George Bush has discovered one of the hard rules of politics you can't run on a "peace and prosperity" platform when people are already enjoying peace and prosperity. Then they feel they can afford to worry about domestic social problems—the spread of drugs, the need for better child care, homelessness, how to extend health cover to the 35 million who don't have insurance and are not eligible for Medicaid, how to improve the school system. The Republicans are having to address such issues which have been successfully

raised by the Democrats. This ties in with demography. The baby boomers, born in the 20 years after the Second World War, are today a crucial electoral force. Bush's chief pollster is preoccupied with winning them over and is therefore reported to have argued for a running mate from that generation—like Senator Quayle.

The baby boomers are now the middle generation. They want to unload on to federal programmes as much responsibility as possible for their children and for their parents. Working wives would like to see free universal child-care facilities. Families looking to inherit from their retired parents don't want to see their inheritance eroded by huge nursing bills.

As a result of all this, com-

mentators are beginning to argue that America is rediscovering a faith in big government and that where they lead, Britain will follow. We will be hearing a lot of this in the coming months but it is flawed, for three reasons.

The Democrats are not trying to win the presidency by proclaiming an ambitious Great Society strategy for expanding government programmes. Indeed, they are refusing to use those threatening words "liberal" and "taxes". Instead, Michael Dukakis says the crucial issue is "competence". This suggests that the Democrats are still on the ideological defensive. Indeed, the Republican campaign is based on the attempt to portray Dukakis as an old-style spender, a charge the Democrats deny.

That is hardly evidence of a revival of faith in government. Dukakis wants to sound like an

unfashioned, middle-of-the-road managerialist politician; other people can set the agenda but Harvard-trained technocrats like him will be best at running things. He can argue that Reaganites have such a low view of government that they give jobs and favours to some pretty dubious types. And he can present himself as managerially competent because of his governorship of one of America's most prosperous states.

Things will have come to a sorry pass in Britain if the elections ever decided to vote Labour because it can credibly claim to run things better than the Conservatives can—competence has never been the source of Labour's appeal.

The US budget deficit is another major constraint on returning to the old politics of high spending. One of the arguments any right-winger falls back

Commentary • ROBIN OAKLEY

## What say you, citizen?

Brighton The agenda of the Conservative conference which opened yesterday is hopelessly out of date. The major worry in the ranks of the faithful is what might be happening to inflation, but tomorrow's economic motion, drawn up in June and selected in July, merely "congratulates" HM Government on its continuing sound management of the economy in which we see low inflation... and calls for further tax cuts.

While Mrs Thatcher, in new green hat, has set off to save the ozone layer, preserve the rain forests and reverse the Greenhouse Effect, the environment debate today contents itself with reaffirming "the fundamental policy of protecting and maintaining the Green Belt".

Such complacency may not be altogether surprising. The sheer solidity, the feeling of permanence at these Tory conferences is impressive. The party is in the driving seat and looks it. But what does come through is just a hint of nervousness about where the party decides to go next. As one senior minister put it to me: "All right, so privatization goes on with water and electricity, and we sell a few more council houses. But what are we going to be doing in the middle of the next parliament. Because we have to be planning the foundations of that now."

The representatives who yesterday booed the socialist mayors of Brighton for suggesting that they show more concern with the have-nots were going to be asked not just to serve their country by making themselves more profitable, but to return something to the community as active citizens.

While there were obvious material rewards for large sec-

tions of the voting population in what the last two Thatcher governments pushed through—buying your council house at a knockdown price, acquiring shares in privatized industries which showed an immediate gain—this time the message is more complicated, the gain less obvious.

Already people are being asked to get involved in Neighbourhood Watch schemes to cut crime, in opted-out schools to improve the education of their children, in running their own estates instead of leaving it to the councils. And Mrs Thatcher plans to develop further the concept of the responsible citizen. There may not be such a thing as society, but there is, after all, such a thing as the community.

But that brings complications for the Government, complications both of political timing and of political salesmanship. Compared with the problems faced by our other party leaders, Mrs Thatcher's troubles are fleabites. If her ministers are worried about retaining momentum in 1995, the other parties are scrambling desperately to get off the starting grid. After the next election the Conservatives can expect a bonus from the Boundary Commissioners of 20 seats extra in the one after.

For the moment Neil Kinnock appears to be rated unelectable. But Labour has begun, painfully and without the assistance of Ron Todd, to put its house in order. And if a credible alternative does begin to emerge in Britain, a far more critical eye than at present may be applied to the Tory record.

The essentials of the economy having been sorted out, the Government has publicly turned

its attention to the quality of life. It has accepted that people want, as well as more money, better education, a more efficient National Health Service, a fairer deal from the professions, and safer streets. By embracing green themes Mrs Thatcher has added to that catalogue such items as sewage-free beaches, cleaner rivers, better protection of wildlife from pesticides.

But Treasury ministers are blanching at the sheer cost of even the first moves in any environmental revolution. They are already engaged in the toughest public spending round we have seen for years, trying to pare away not only at ministers' new bids but at their existing budgets as well. There must be a question-mark over whether the Government will find the will within this parliament for the spending required to make the slightest visible impact on the problems of pollution. Especially when, towards the end of it, they are reminded of Nigel Lawson's commitment to take the standard rate of tax down another 5p in the pound.

Meanwhile there is that question of timing. The Government learned its lesson from the last parliament, when it appeared initially to run out of ideas and then suffered embarrassment when it attempted controversial items, such as Sunday trading reform, too late in the proceedings. This time it has put all the controversial legislation—the poll tax, the revival of private housing to rent, the Education Reform Bill provisions for opting out, water and electricity privatization—in the first 18 months of the programme. As Peter Brooke put it yesterday: "Two thirds of the pledges in our radical manifesto

have been fulfilled in the first year of this parliament."

Good tactics, which ensure that they can be bounced through Parliament with only token Tory rebellions. But it also means that this becomes in large measure a parliament of implementation, and it raises the question of how the other four years will be occupied. At the 1983 and 1987 elections the jury was still out on most of the controversial items pushed through in the preceding parliament. The full effects were still to show. By moving as early as this in this parliament the Government has ensured that the public will be able to see by the time of the next election whether the new reforms have worked or not.

They will be able to see how many schools have actually opted out and how much the quality in their own children's classes has improved. They will be able to see if the country's housing problems have been improved by a stimulation of private sector rented accommodation. They will be able to see how many council estates have been transferred to private landlords. Above all they will see how the poll tax is working out.

And because Mrs Thatcher has responded to the "Whither now" nervousness by putting the environment into the front line, her government will now be judged too by the number of dead seals still being washed up on our beaches in 1991.

There is no sign at Brighton that Thatcherism is running out of steam. With ministers casting their eyes already on 1995, far from it. But it could just be that the Government has aroused expectations which it cannot fulfil.

OCT 12 ON THIS DAY 1940



More than 300 on duty in the basement and lower floors were uninjured when *The Times* offices received a direct hit by a German bomb on September 28. One of the worst affected areas was the library, and for days afterwards newspaper cuttings were handed in by members of the public from neighbouring streets.

### DAMAGE TO 'THE TIMES' OFFICE A HEAVY BOMB

It is now permissible to publish the fact that recently *The Times* Office was heavily bombed and was much damaged. The part of the building which was struck is that facing Queen Victoria Street, Printing House Square, where stands what was the home of the Walter family in earlier centuries and the first home also of the newspaper they produced, escaped most of the surrounding destruction.

This destruction must have been greater but for the solid walls, the work of another generation, which defended the fabric on Queen Victoria Street. Windows indeed were smashed, the well-known clock disappeared, and there was some disfigurement, but the ancient red brick stood up well to the test of modern bombardment. The partial ruin of neighbouring structures showed how fierce the test had been.

Interior damage, however, was severe. Many rooms in the Editorial departments were reduced to chaos. The Managerial section fared almost as badly. But although the task of bringing order again from the mingled mass of masonry, broken glass, splintered furniture, and stored memoranda was great, it was tackled without delay and with a

degree of success that would have seemed impossible at first to anyone contemplating the ruin.

TEST FOR A.R.P.

The air raid precautions taken long ago, including the special system of observation and warning, were ready for the call suddenly made upon them, hampered as they were by darkness. It is a happy fact that, though several of Miss staff had remarkably narrow escapes, none was more than slightly hurt.

The production of *The Times* was already in progress and was maintained without interruption. *The Times* of the following day was also published with no evidence whatever of the explosion or its consequences. After sufficient plans and general good will sufficed amply to speed the work of rapid adaptation and to prevent any breach of continuity. Next morning it was noted by the public in Queen Victoria Street that above the ruins the two Union Jacks were flying as usual on their flagpoles.

### PRIME MINISTER'S LETTER

The following letter has since been addressed by the Prime Minister to the chairman of *The Times* Publishing Company, Limited:

10, Downing Street, Whitehall, October 10, 1940

My dear Astor, Congratulations on the remarkable way in which *The Times* has carried on in face of all the damage and discomfort caused by the bombing of Printing House Square.

None of your readers could discover from the paper that your Editorial and Management departments have been destroyed.

The resourcefulness and adaptability of your staff are beyond praise. WINSTON S. CHURCHILL, Major the Hon. J.J. Astor, M.P.





1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone: 01-782 5000

## LAW AND ORDER DAY

The Conservative Party Conference talks much about freedom but it cares most about threats to order. Violence and potential anarchy produce its most authentic emotions. There is nothing necessarily and unpleasantly illiberal in that. As the Liberal eminence, John Stuart Mill, put it: "The liberty of the individual must be thus far limited: he must not make himself a nuisance to other people". Being burgled is a considerable nuisance. Many victims of violent crime have their personal liberty seriously and permanently curtailed.

Without a background of order and stability, freedom has very little meaning. The Conservatives' "law and order" debate, therefore, always matters. It touches upon permanent concerns. But this year the glowing economic vision portrayed by Government speakers is all the more clearly threatened by the violent young drunk, the mugger, the drugs pusher and the city fraudster. The conference will all the more be looking to the Home Secretary for answers.

They cannot be the kind of answers they get from the Chancellor of the Exchequer. "Crime" is not like inflation. It is a noun covering different kinds of activity which happen to be illegal. It has not yet produced its Isaac Newton or its Adam Smith or even its Milton Friedman. The theory that crime is caused, in a simple way, by poverty is so riddled with holes that it can be deemed to have sunk; but nothing floats in its place.

Mr Hurd will be able to answer one line of criticism with the now ritual fact that the police service has been increased by 13,000 under this Government. Another thousand or so are on the way. Sentences on the whole are growing tougher and Britain's prisons are more crowded than anywhere else in Europe — with the exception of Turkey.

Burglary, he can claim, may be being contained. Against violent crime, however, determination has not yet prevailed. And to the public, if not always to pundits and politicians, there is all the difference in the world between the criminals who offer illegal goods and services and the criminals who commit assaults. The latter arouse the real fear, anger, and appetite for revenge.

The Home Secretary can point today to the new Criminal Justice Act as evidence of the

Government's seriousness in the face of this fact. He should promise to look again at the suspect's right to silence. Giving the prosecution or the judge the right to comment in court on the previous silence of the accused may catch some villains who might otherwise get away. It certainly poses no threat to civil liberty.

Mr Hurd should use the opportunity to insist on further efficiencies from the police. Last week in Preston, chief police officers gave a warning of a reduction in policemen on the beat unless they received more manpower. Even among Conservatives the demand for more police manpower and resources is bound to be greeted now with a certain amiable cynicism.

In particular, the whole question of "administrative discharge" should now be regarded as firmly on the agenda. Currently, police officers who are plainly inadequate but have not infringed the discipline code are safe in their jobs. Sooner or later this has got to change. In a public service where efficiency can make the difference between life and death the existence of such a privilege is insupportable.

Public opinion may be persuaded to continue police privileges in housing and pensions, because of the unusual stresses and dangers of police work. But the feather-bedding of inefficiency is another matter and one which stands in flat contradiction to the philosophy of the Government as applied elsewhere.

A more efficient police service and tough laws are two elements in an effective anti-crime campaign. But the most important and incalculable factor is public motivation.

Neighbourhood Watch schemes have helped, although they vary considerably in quality according to the amount of police support and the presence of motivated neighbours. Further progress will involve the development of social habits and institutions, mainly local, which will reduce criminal opportunity.

Crime prevention is a prosaic undramatic business but it offers the best hope. The current Conservative theme of the active citizen, which Mr Hurd has done most to promote, has most to offer here — both in curbing crime and in protecting the Home Secretary in what is always a torrid two hours before his critics.

## DANGEROUS WALLS

For months ministers have been attempting to instil into Britain's corporate mentality a kind of "Europhoria". The message is avowedly internationalist. Companies are being pressed to gear up before 1992 to a dynamic market of 320 million, in which barriers to the free movement of goods, services and people will have been eliminated.

The rest of the world has been invited to take it on trust that a stronger, more competitive Europe will be good for growth, and set a glowing example of trade liberalization to an increasingly protectionist world. The rest of the world is, in fact, becoming progressively more alarmed, fearing that what is actually in the making is a giant, protectionist fortress.

Lord Young yesterday showed that he is alive to these anxieties when he insisted in Brighton that the Community "must not raise walls that exclude the rest of the world". But ministerial proclamations of good intent will not be enough.

Foreign governments need to be reassured about the fine print of the deals in Brussels. Reciprocal conditions, transitional quotas, vulnerable sectors — they all have a worrying sound. The US and Japan openly fear being shut out. The EFTA countries are seeking to protect their special status, and even Comecon is rushing to establish formal relations.

Their concerns come under three broad headings. The first is that the overall Community import quotas, which will replace the existing national ones, will be tailored in "sensitive" sectors like cars or textiles to the most protectionist EC countries and thus be even more rigorous than now. The European car industry is already pressing for a 1992 Euroquota for Japanese cars 15 per cent below today's levels.

Those foreign companies which respond to such threats by investing directly in plant in Europe and expanding co-operative ventures with European partners are rightly concerned that they may then be caught in the next Eurotrap: the requirement that their products can be considered European only if they have a minimum local content. In the case of Nissan's British-made cars, the French are demanding that this should be set at 80 per cent. Their third major concern is that while ministers and Eurocrats alike solemnly affirm their commitment to the post-war liberal trading regime of GATT, the Community is

breaking new ground in controlling services — such as banking and insurance — for which an international regime is only beginning to be worked out under GATT's current Uruguay Round.

The European Commission argues that if companies in these sectors wish to take advantage of the free European market their governments must see their way to offering "reciprocal" access for European companies. Soothing riders affirming the Community's intention, in due course, to galvanize the Uruguay Round into accepting its liberal internal regime on a multilateral basis has convinced none of our trading partners.

Beyond affirming that "the internal market should not close in on itself" at the Hanover summit this summer, ministers have paid these anxieties scant collective attention.

Mrs Thatcher, in Bruges last month, emphasized that it would be a "betrayal" of the interests and international responsibilities of the Community if it were to break down its internal barriers while building them against the outside world. This theme is now echoed by Lord Young. A conference organized by the Confederation of British Industry yesterday drew timely attention to the urgent need to impress that message on the Berlaymont and the army of lobbyists seeking anaesthetics to ease the pain of competition.

Half of Britain's exports — a higher proportion even than West Germany's — go to countries outside the Community. Britain, which has traditionally welcomed foreign investment from Japan, the US and other countries, would be particularly hard hit by retaliation against a Fortress Europe.

British export performance is heavily reliant on access to the most competitive sources of goods and services. The protectionist fuse is dangerously short in the United States, where Mr Dukakis has abandoned long-held free-trade beliefs to thunder against foreign investment and insist on tooth-for-a-tooth trade reciprocity "to restore America's pre-eminence in world trade".

It is no recipe for America, and still less for Britain. It is vital that the Community, through unequivocal policy statements, deprives American populism of any excuse to plunge the world towards protectionism and the risks of recession that would follow.

## BRAVE BEFORE FIRE

Verdicts of "accidental death" were delivered yesterday on the 31 people killed in the King's Cross disaster. The relatives of those who died have expressed disquiet that the inquest lasted for only six days and that the bulk of this time was spent considering events after the fatal "flashover" rather than in the 15 minutes beforehand during which so many were directed to the booking hall. Whatever the merits of that argument, this emphasis within the inquest did allow a degree of focus on something which has often been neglected — the bravery of the firemen involved.

One reason why this was insufficiently evident in the reports from the court was that the firemen delivered their testimony in a dull and pedestrian manner. It was a tone struck, one might suspect, not from a sense of false humility but from an attempt to keep at a distance a horror which for them threatens daily recurrence. There was nothing dull about their behaviour.

Perfect courage, it was once observed, means doing unthought what we would be capable of doing with the world looking on. Certainly there was no one to witness the actions of Station Officer Colin Townsley when the black

smoke closed around him that night. From the position of his body, and the testimony of the last person apparently to see him alive, his final action was to descend the escalator to aid a woman whose hair and clothing had ignited.

Seconds before the fireball appeared he had parted from another fireman, Sub Officer Roger Bell, who then found himself beneath the fire. From there he tackled the blaze without the help of trained colleagues, repeatedly climbing the escalator to fight the flames with only a London Underground hose.

Three other firemen who were driven out of the ticket hall by the ferocity of the heat managed to drag at least three passengers out with them. Once outside they put on breathing apparatus and attempted to return. They spoke of spraying water to cool the air — only to have it turn to steam in their faces.

Others spoke of crawling on their bellies to get fire hoses to the heart of the blaze. At one point they had to crawl over the bodies of the dead. At the coroner's court they spoke of this almost as if it were an everyday occurrence — everyday courage which we have come to take for granted.

## Hopes and fears for triple vaccine

From Dr A. K. Clarke

Sir, It was with considerable surprise that I heard Mrs Edwina Currie state that the district health authorities will have to bear part of the cost of the new triple vaccination for mumps, measles and rubella, on the ground that prevention of these diseases will cut down the work of the authorities (report, October 4). Has she no understanding of the financial structure of the health service?

One authority has stated that it will be required to find £80,000 to implement the policy and presumably this figure is fairly representative. What do health authorities do? Sack five health visitors? Close two or three special-care baby beds? The unpleasant fact is that the so-called savings are only valid if there is a cut in the service and this cannot occur without damaging patient care.

For health authorities the imposition of an unexpected financial demand midway through a budgetary year can be devastating. The Treasury is awash with money and it is the height of meanness to yet again penalize health authorities, especially when the project is to do with prevention of serious disease in children.

Mrs Currie must not be surprised if the new vaccination campaign is not taken up with any enthusiasm by health authorities, nor must she be surprised if she finds that criticism comes from quarters where she would normally expect support.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant. A. K. CLARKE, Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases, Upper Borough Walls, Bath, Avon, October 7.

From Mrs Deborah Purkhardt, Sir, May I wholeheartedly support your arguments (leading article, October 4) in favour of childhood immunization.

As new parents we were anxious to have our baby immunized against serious diseases, but were alarmed when she had a reaction to the first part of the triple vaccination against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus. We, like many others, had read the press reports. We were advised that her reaction was quite normal.

May I suggest that the biggest problem confronting the Government as they undertake their new campaign promoting the vaccination now available against measles, mumps, and rubella is that of overcoming the fear many parents have of the unknown.

## Moore's bronzes

From the President of the Royal Academy of Arts, Sir, Mr Anthony Barnett (October 1) quotes Sir Robert Sainsbury's view (September 24) that Henry Moore's early work is of greater stature than the later monumental bronzes to justify the film he conceived, *England's Henry Moore*. It may well be that they have both missed the opportunity to re-evaluate Moore's work — they both fall into the same trap.

The exhibition at the Royal Academy shows clearly that the early work of Henry Moore places him securely at the forefront of 20th-century art, but unlike his near contemporary, Pablo Picasso, whose feet were so firmly planted on the ground, Moore was one of the few visionary artists of

our century. That this great vision — like that of the painter he so admired, J. M. W. Turner — unfolds in sequential stages, is evident in the exhibition's progression through his career from the great Northampton Madonna to the noble and sublime works created late in his life which rise like the rocks of his native Yorkshire — neither figurative nor abstract but commanding and interpreting natural forces in a way never achieved in sculpture before.

The revelations of Turner's paintings are echoed in the aura of these great works of sculpture.

Yours faithfully, ROGER DE GREY, President, Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly, W1, October 10.

From Dr David Hawson, Sir, One has only to ask parents the ages at which their child is due for routine immunisations, or was given them, to understand that ignorance or uncertainty about such a simple issue as timing is a key factor leading to poor uptake.

An effective way of overcoming this confusion would be to issue parents, at the same time as they register the birth of their baby, with a durable plastic date-stamped card. This would show the dates by which the child should have received the various immunisations as well as displaying the contra-indications to the vaccines.

Such a system, as well as giving clear guidelines, would create a subtle change in emphasis. The present system relies on the medical profession cajoling and persuading the public to get immunised; a well-informed public would become a consumer who demanded to be immunised.

Yours faithfully, DAVID HAWSON, Paradise Cottage, Monymusk, Aberdeenshire, October 4.

From Mr Edgar Duchin, Sir, Anent the criticism by Bernard Levin (October 6) of the attacks by Susan Chitty and Lyndall Hopkinson on their mother, Antonia White, may I point out that, in this, they were only following a maternal precedent.

Few of his pupils, such as I, would recognise, in the portrayal (in the first part of her novel, *Frost in May*) of her father as a puritan authoritarian the chubby cheerful tutor in *Greek of the top form* at St Paul's in the 1920s. Cecil Botting, joint author of the famous Greek primer, whose enthusiasm for Homer and tireless devotion to his pupils enabled many of them to gain scholarships and achieve eminence in later life.

Truly it is not the Deity but modern-day biographers who visit the sins of parents on later generations!

Yours faithfully, EDGAR DUCHIN, Savile Club, 69 Brook Street, W1, October 10.

From the Chief Executive of the Consumers' Association, Sir, I think that the President of the Institute of Civil Defence, Mr Alley (September 27) may have misunderstood Consumers' Association's position on a possible national disaster agency. While we support the idea of such a body, we make no call for a "disaster supremo", nor did we suggest that a national disaster agency (NDA) need be a supra-governmental body.

What we did say was that disaster preparedness for peace-time emergencies is not a requirement in law and that planning (and, by implication, the "existing hotchpotch of legislation") needs

to be properly co-ordinated. A national disaster agency could help co-ordinate plans when disaster affected more than one authority, act as a central source of information, and, most important of all, could make sure that lessons learned from disasters in different parts of the country (or the world) could be passed on nationwide.

There seems to us no reason why the information function that we envisaged for an NDA should not make a contribution to improved education and training and certainly to public information and guidance.

Yours faithfully, JOHN BEISHON, Chief Executive, Consumers' Association, 2 Marylebone Road, NW1, October 10.

From Mr Richard White, Sir, Philip Howard has frequently regaled us in your columns with his essays on changes in the use of words in Modern English. In his contribution on the *Vindolanda* tablets (September 24), given his view that *Vindolanda* is the continental name of that place of which (by implication) *Chesterholm* is the insular name, may I humbly suggest that the semantic shift in the word "British" is worthy of his attention.

"*Vindolanda*" is a place-name coined in British, a language of great antiquity in this island, and an equivalent surname "Llanwyn" survives in that still-living language. "*Chesterholm*", by con-

trast, is a coinage in an immigrant tongue brought here a mere one-and-a-half millennia ago by a nation of Germanic immigrants (probably illegal immigrants) calling themselves "the English".

Not until a mere couple of centuries ago would the average Englishman have dreamt of calling himself a Briton, a name which would make him one of the contemptible *Wealas* (i.e. Romans) from whom his ancestors had taken the island, any more than he would have tolerated such threats to his liberty as a standing army or a professional police force, or abandon his right freely to bear arms.

Yours faithfully, R. WHITE, 106 Roding Lane North, Woodford Green, Essex, October 4.

From Dr Gwen Grant, Sir, Unlike Mr A. G. May (October 4) can I say how thankful I am that there is to be a limit on school journeys paid for by pupils.

I can claim some knowledge of schools as the daughter and sister of teachers, a teacher and trainer of teachers, and a parent; in my opinion the educational value of many visits is very low in return for the time and effort expended. In addition there is always the problem of the children whose parents cannot pay, who are made to feel second-class citizens and are only too often just "child-

## M Delors' idea of the single market

From Dr F. A. Mann, FBA

Sir, In your issue of October 3 Mr Richard Owen reports from Brussels M Delors' statement that "the Single European Act... provides for eventual union, including economic and monetary union".

It is true that according to the preamble of that oddly-named document the member States are moved by the will... to transform relations as a whole among their States into a European Union in accordance with the Solemn Declaration of Stuttgart of 19 June 1983.

This, however, is not more than the verbiage usual in preambles to diplomatic documents. It is not a provision expressing a legal commitment.

The new Article 8A defines the nature of the internal market: it shall comprise an area without frontiers in which the free movement of goods, persons, services and capital is ensured in accordance with the provisions of this Treaty.

It is necessary, therefore, to look at these provisions more closely. Thus, according to Article 100A, measures adopted for the establishment and functioning of the internal market shall not apply to fiscal provisions, to those relating to the free movement of persons not to those relating to the rights and interests of employed persons, and in any case the member State's rights under Article 36 (in

substance, national order public) are preserved.

According to Article 102A, in order to ensure the convergence (not the union) of economic and monetary policies which is necessary for the further development of the Community, each Member State shall co-operate in accordance with the objectives of Article 104

— i.e. by the adoption of policies needed to ensure the equilibrium of its overall balance of payments and to maintain confidence in its currency, while taking care to ensure a high level of employment and a stable level of prices. These are terms of great vagueness and generality.

Article 102A admittedly is part of a chapter headed "Co-operation in Economic and Monetary Policy (Economic and Monetary Union)". It is legitimate to treat such words as an aid to construction, but they do not necessarily mean more than an association with a common purpose, nor can they possibly support M Delors' regarding economic and monetary union as an unqualified legal obligation.

In law, therefore, M Delors would seem to be mistaken. To sup with him obviously needs more than a long spoon.

Yours faithfully, F. A. MANN, The Athenaeum, Pall Mall, SW1, October 4.

## Cutting a swath

From Mrs Mary Cooke

Sir, Kent is already suffering an appalling blot on its landscape with the building of the Channel tunnel terminal at Cheriton. It is now being told by British Rail that demand will exceed capacity in the 1990s and that they wish to build a high-speed rail link to London, despite repeated assurances that this would not be necessary.

Of the routes proposed, numbers one and two would run to the north of Maidstone through chalk, where cuttings would be used, but route three would destroy several areas of outstanding natural beauty, including the lovely Bourne valley, where it must drop 100ft in a very few miles, and would strike across the countryside many metres above ground level.

## Sins of the mothers

From Mr Edgar Duchin

Sir, Anent the criticism by Bernard Levin (October 6) of the attacks by Susan Chitty and Lyndall Hopkinson on their mother, Antonia White, may I point out that, in this, they were only following a maternal precedent.

Few of his pupils, such as I, would recognise, in the portrayal (in the first part of her novel, *Frost in May*) of her father as a puritan authoritarian the chubby cheerful tutor in *Greek of the top form* at St Paul's in the 1920s. Cecil Botting, joint author of the famous Greek primer, whose enthusiasm for Homer and tireless devotion to his pupils enabled many of them to gain scholarships and achieve eminence in later life.

Truly it is not the Deity but modern-day biographers who visit the sins of parents on later generations!

Yours faithfully, EDGAR DUCHIN, Savile Club, 69 Brook Street, W1, October 10.

From Dr Martin J. H. Mogridge, Sir, Your report on October 3 notes that car traffic to central London has been falling since 1982, yet road speeds in central London are also falling, contrary to the expectations of the "experts" in the road lobby.

The latter have been claiming that the continuing rise in car ownership must lead to a fall in traffic speeds, even predicting a 5 mph central speed by 2000.

Other "experts" in the road lobby claim that a central traffic speed of 12 mph is "acceptable", so if it falls, due to extra traffic, we must build more road capacity to bring the speed back up again. No wonder they are baffled when both traffic and speed fall!

Perhaps they might now consider that traffic speeds in central London are dependent on public transport journey speeds.

These have definitely become worse since 1982, since one-man-operated buses on the roads and severe overcrowding on the Tube have slowed down speeds, as Jack Straw noted in the same issue, and just as the removal of the trams in 1952 slowed down traffic speeds, contrary to the predictions of the "experts".

Yours faithfully, M. J. H. MOGRIDGE, Transport Studies Group, University College London, Gower Street, WC1, October 6.

From Dr S. J. Lockwood, Sir, Unlike your earlier correspondents (September 22, 27 and October 3, 10) I have managed, so far, to avoid the sting of the weaver (sic) fish, although I have seen it inflict its venom on colleagues. I have been pleased to see that you have been prepared to use your column to increase the number who know the simple antidote to this venom.

Your correspondents may be interested to know that this fish has no link with weaving but derives "weaver" from the old French *wivre*, a serpent. This association was retained in its formal scientific nomenclature *Echichthys (Trachinus) vipera* (prickly viper fish).

Yours faithfully, STEPHEN LOCKWOOD, 7 Pine Court, Llanrwst Road, Colwyn Bay, Cwyd, October 11.

From Mr J. L. M. Grint, Sir, It may be that "driving" examiners are not permitted to discuss details of the test (Mr Hurst's letter, October 6), but I encountered no such reticence when I first failed. After we had discussed the finer points of my driving technique the examiner assured me he would happily have passed me had I not reversed into a lamp post during the three-point turn.

Yours faithfully, J. L. M. GRINT, 6 Tower Road, Orpington, Kent, October 7.

The engineering work involved in this clay soil, where springs appear in fresh places every year and where the water table is very high and flash floods are by no means uncommon, would pose enormous problems and involve vast more damage to the environment than on stable land.

The county is about to have another swath cut across its agriculture with the six-lane M20 linkage of Ashford and Maidstone. Surely there could be, for once, a co-ordinated transport policy involving road and rail built side by side, which would cut the environmental damage in half by one joint stroke?

Yours faithfully, MARY COOKE, 2 Stacey's Place, Carpenters Lane, Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent, October 4.

## Traffic trends

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## Stung into action

From Dr S. J. Lockwood

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## THE ARTS

Brandon Taylor reports from Moscow on the impact of the one-man show by Francis Bacon

## Master of isolation

## GALLERY

The signal event of the Moscow art world between now and November 6 is the exhibition at the Central Hall of Artists, near Gorky Park, of an artist who is being widely described as "the greatest living painter" — by implication, anywhere in the world.

Francis Bacon's reputation has travelled before him; he is widely known in the Soviet Union from reproductions, as well as by hearsay. Yet this fine exhibition is proving to be many things at once. It is a resounding organizational success for the British Council, and for Bacon's gallery, Marlborough Fine Art. It is an important cultural link between two nations, that will doubtless preface other exhibitions, passing in both directions. And it is also a political gesture which conveys that the West is on good terms with the Soviet Union and wishes to become even closer, at least as long as President Gorbachev's policy of *perestroika* continues its optimistic path.

Francis Bacon is probably the right artist for this gesture for a number of reasons. Critics in the West are not, of course, unanimous about his art. He is an untrained painter who, after a brief career as a furniture designer, made his debut in 1944 with a triptych entitled "Three Studies for Figures at the Base of a Crucifixion": an anguished exercise in secular iconography, which leapt off from Picasso's biomorphic inventions of the late 1920s.

There are four paintings in Moscow from the 1940s, and though they look confused by the standards of Bacon's

later work — in colour and image they now look tentative, even stumbling — they establish a base point for the very powerful middle period paintings of the 1960s and 1970s, which are here in abundance: bright, scaring, often gawdy descriptions of sitting, lying and twisting bodies in extremis.

This is the centre of Francis Bacon's art: fleshly, tangled forms, represented as intensely and irreducibly alone. Bacon has a superlative technique for imposing distortions on the human figure, which, though less mercurial and perhaps less inventive than Picasso's, are endlessly compelling. He pulls paint as if it were pulled flesh. He combs it. He stipples it and marks it, and colours it with all the colours of a bruise.

What he is attempting, he has often said, is not a story, not an illustration, but an intensification of reality by compressing from it a single sensation, a single, isolated moment in which something chaotic is perceived and held still.

Bacon's art only became possible when photography usurped the task of optically "correct" description. Yet, as his dependence on Muybridge's photographs, leaping animals, wrestling figures and sportsmen shows, he is also deeply indebted to the photograph — or to his way of looking at them. It became the origin of his all-important concept of a "short-hand", an "artifice", a "con-

tration" of reality which is more real, more penetrating, than the literal truth.

The case against Bacon is easy enough to make. You can argue that he has repeated this basic formula of the twisted, alienated body *ad nauseam* since around 1962, without apparently exercising his evident fascination for the dying and the vulnerable.

The Soviet public may well claim to see a more telling image of mortality in Timonov's "Portrait of Vincenzo Morosini", whose haunting visage is among the 38 splendidly-hung works from the London National Gallery, now on show at Moscow's Pushkin Museum. Certainly, one response to Bacon's work which I encountered several times in Moscow was that his pessimism was difficult to take, his treatment of the human body somehow disrespectful.

Guests at the opening were at once amused and somewhat sceptical at Bacon's paradoxical statement — relayed by video in the artist's absence — that he was "optimistic, about nothing." Or you can argue, with some force, that he only shows the alienation of a diseased society, but offers no hope for its recovery. This, too, is a viewpoint often taken by Soviet critics.

But this would be to overstate the case. Admittedly there are no paintings, in this relatively small show, of figures in relation, in wrestling or quasi-sexual postures. Voices were heard at the press conference to the effect that the presence of such works would have come into severe

conflict with the harsh Soviet laws against homosexual imagery — which is almost certainly how they would have been seen. But the very fine recent paintings, such as the "Studies for a Self-Portrait, Triptych" of 1985-6 or the "Study for a Portrait of John Edwards" of 1988, show that Bacon is at the height of his powers, with the single, isolated image still his great invention and hallmark.

To the Soviets, this exhibition comes at an extraordinarily significant moment. Deprived of the literature and art of Western European existentialism for some 40 years, they are now, by all accounts, beginning to recognize feelings of alienation in themselves — from authority and from the state, particularly — and from the still excessive bureaucracy that dominates Soviet life for the majority. They may not go wholeheartedly for Bacon's elaborate fascination with wounded and crippled flesh, but the show is almost certain to spark off debate about the validity as well as the limitations of Bacon's isolationist posture.

In fact there is more even than that. In Bacon's "Triptych" of 1986-7 there is an image of Trotsky's blood-spattered writing desk, at which he was sitting in 1940, at the moment his skull was split open by a Stalinist henchman. The subject is still virtually taboo in the Soviet Union. But Soviet gallery-goers who recognize this image may begin to see doors opening upon their country's deeply troubled past, as well. That Bacon's work can carry these potent significations is an added reward.



At the height of his powers: Bacon's "Study for a Portrait of John Edwards", 1988

## Incomplete but intense beauty Underplayed for Shaw

## CONCERTS

## BBCSO/Zagrosk Festival Hall/Radio 3

Just five days after opening the South Bank Schoenberg retrospective with *Moses and Aron*, the BBC Symphony Orchestra was back on Monday night to give luminous performances of three smaller works, all of them in some way unfinished. The *Modern Psalm* that was his last work is literally so, and it would be easy to sentimentalize the pathos of its frayed end on the words "and yet I pray": here the conductor Lothar Zagrosk kept the power marching on, and there was the memory of the firm intensity Roland Hermann had brought to the solo part.

Hermann was also the protagonist of *Die glückliche Hand*, which may be musically finished, but which desperately needs completion with its mime and lighting components. Here, surely, is a marvellous but homeless piece that television might rescue, however great the problems in matching the tone of Schoenberg's fable of the compelled, searching artist for whom creation is too easy and love too difficult. A concert performance inevitably tells a different story, and quite a story it was on this occasion, splendidly realizing the weird, scintillating and eruptive gestures in Schoenberg's most fascinating orchestral score.

Unlike this piece, the orchestral

accompaniment to a film scene is probably best left with its visuals imaginary, especially when the foreboding and violence are as cogently presented as they were here. Altogether the Schoenberg pieces seemed more immediate than the three choral items by Brahms in the first half, though that may be partly because it is easier these days to project Schoenbergian angst than Brahmsian comfort: the entry of the men's voices in the *Alto Rhapsody* was particularly corny here, and Brigitte Fassbaender's efforts at a determined, word-marking manner of delivery were more laudable than successful. But it was good to hear the less settled harmonies of the *Song of the Fates* finely sung by the BBC Singers.

Paul Griffiths

**Salomon Orchestra/  
Braithwaite  
Queen Elizabeth Hall**

Twenty-five years ago Nicholas Braithwaite, fresh from college, found himself in the classic situation of being a conductor without orchestra. Friends who had played with him in the National Youth Orchestra rallied round and gave him the best present one in his position could wish for: his own orchestra. It quickly became known as the Salomon Orchestra, after Haydn's impresario, and it flourishes today, a showcase of amateur talent at its best.

For the anniversary concert the

orchestra typically chose to commission a new piece, Gles Swayne's *Song of the Leviathan*, and they did the composer the honour of obviously preparing the work with a thoroughness many a professional orchestra would do well to emulate. It is not an easy work either to play or to listen to, for all the desire expressed by the composer to make his music accessible. The said Leviathan, in case you were wondering, is the whale, the work a cry for mankind's mercy on that creature. One only wishes that it were more eloquent, but as it is the 13 sections sprawl, and the contrast between touching lyricism and brutality is made less poignant by happening so often in much the same way.

Nevertheless the orchestra relished the work, the percussion section their extravagant noises, the principals their often hazardous solos (the best was for trombone). These players were just as impressive in Strauss's *Ein Heldenleben*. This, possibly the first performance in the Queen Elizabeth Hall, was in truth slightly rough-edged, but better than that insipid gloss.

Stephen Pettitt

**Philharmonia/  
Sinopoli  
Festival Hall**

Sir Peter Maxwell Davies's Trumpet Concerto was bound to come as relief and reassurance after the recent experience of his opera *Res-*

*urrection*; the surprise is that it should be quite such a startling piece, touched with the flying brilliance Davies has found in this instrument ever since the Trumpet Sonata that was his Opus 1. In a single movement, lasting 22 minutes, it provides the occasion for characteristic ominous growls towards disturbing heralric celebrations, and for nimble rhythmic figures equally Davies's own.

The work has the slow-fast-slow-fast form of a church sonata, or of a one-movement symphony with a compacted scherzo-finale. Its principal and hair-raising climax comes in the second slow section, where the trumpet sounds out with frantic authority supported by all the strings in octaves; this, we are to understand, is Saint Francis preaching to the birds, who coo and call as eerie northern creatures, no doubt belonging to Orkney, like the cold, delicious seaway of glockenspiel and crotales around the soloist in the fast passages.

John Wallace, for whom the concerto was written, found himself tested in rhythmic control and in the use of registral extremes, but gave a performance of winning bravado and fluency. The Philharmonia under Giuseppe Sinopoli suggested that more time was needed to polish up the detail, but revealed that this is a work of sonic drama for the orchestra as well as the soloist, with its chasmal opening, its strong melodies for low woodwind and cellos, its bird cries and its dazzle of percussion.

P.G.

## THEATRE

## The Millionairess Greenwich

Epifania Fitzassenden, spoiled little rich girl, noted man-eater, ruthless entrepreneur, and formidable judo opponent, is the last and liveliest of Shaw's Amazonian heroines. By turns impressive and absurd, throwing suicidal tantrums at one minute and accurately analyzing them the next, she is a whole Shawian drama in herself, while remaining the same person from first to last.

In telling the story of her separation from a mediocre husband, and her anarchistic expedition to an East End sweet shop, Shaw gathers up the social preoccupations and female archetypes of his past 80 years. Eppy (as he called her) derives partly from the violent and greedy Blanche Sartorius in his first play. In her, his editorial pronouncements of the "crime" of poverty and democracy's need for boss figures are put to the living test: issues that, once again, reveal him as commentator on our own times.

As for her claims on the spectators' sympathy, there is a stark contrast between her first-act appearance as an arrogant purse-proud bully, and her arrival in the rag-trade den where she emerges as a natural leader taking charge of the wretched little business and terrifying its drudgery-bound owners with the prospect of



Afraid: John Gabriel, Pamela Buchner (centre) with Barbara Flynn

escaping from the treadmill. The easy Shawian argument is that Eppy becomes a person of consequence once she acquires some business in the world. But, come the last act and her transformation of a dilapidated pub into a flashy art-deco hotel, and you start wondering whether her own transformation was worthwhile, as it has involved throwing out the old proprietors and installing their frock-coated son who insists, with a butters smile, that what happened to his parents was all for the best.

The comedy, in other words, arises from Shaw's arguments with himself and while from its opening line ("Are you Julius Sagamore, the worthless nephew of my late solicitor, Pontifex Sagamore?"). *The Millionairess* steps the high wire of comic detachment; it also conveys a strong undertow of pain — not so much among the losers, but in Epifania herself (whom Shaw regarded as "essentially tragic"), who has priced herself out of the market of human contact, and settles for her Egyptian doctor only because she cannot buy him. Penny Cherns's production is a low-energy affair which takes the surrounding characters, on Eppy's own valuation, as third-rate people. Her free-loading bachelor admirer Blanchebard gets an effective punch-bag reading from David Ross; and the old sweat-shop couple are movingly played by John Gabriel and Pamela Buchner. Malcolm Sinclair's Sagamore has the right glancingly ironic style. The rest are all scaled down. Barbara Flynn's Epifania most of all: a rather irritable English lady, performing her judo moves by numbers, and without a trace of the exotic distinction or enraged lightning-flashes that attracted Katharine Hepburn and Sophia Loren to the role.

Irving Wardle

Bobby McFerrin, who only sings solo, happily talks to Johnny Black

## Don't worry, be yourself

When Bobby McFerrin was 10 years old, he succumbed to a debilitating nervous illness but, in that adversity, he found his greatest strength. "My bed had a radio built into the headboard. I used to just listen to classical music on there and I'm sure it helped me pull through." McFerrin's awareness that this curative power is inexplicable in no way diminishes his faith in it.

The faith carries through to his Top 10 single, "Be Happy", which has shot him from jazz-cult celebrity to international pop star in the space of a few weeks. "People write and tell me that song helped them through their exams, or it patched up a love affair that was going wrong. It has the power to shift people's attention away from their misery, then that produces something in the body that helps it to heal."

It's a cliché, but a reasonably true one, that for most successful black American artists, music was their escape from ghetto poverty. McFerrin's life could hardly have been more different. "My father was a baritone with the Metropolitan Opera in New York and my mother heads the voice department at Fullerton College."

He was already attending the Juilliard School to study music theory when he was six. As a teenager he discovered pop music, but even then it wasn't so much Motown soul as white middle class pop. "My big influences were Cream, The Beatles, The Young Rascals... and in high school I formed a quartet playing cover versions of Sergio Mendez and Henry Mancini hits."



Careless of his fame: McFerrin

no money. I was behind in my rent, I couldn't make my car payments. We struggled."

In 1979, he joined the Jon Hendricks band and soon after met comedian Bill Cosby, who smoothed his path towards some bookings and used McFerrin's voice for the scatting signature tune on his television series.

When his first solo album was released, in 1982, McFerrin was already toying with the idea that would eventually set him apart from every other contemporary jazz vocalist. He was working on an arrangement of Joan Armatrading's "Opportunity" when "I found myself wandering round the house, singing all the parts to myself, moving from bass to drums to guitar to voice, always using the dominant parts of the music. I suddenly realized it would be possible to perform live without any accompaniment."

In Ashland, Oregon, in March 1983, the opportunity to try just that presented itself when the amplification for his piano failed.

"I went to the front of the stage and started singing. Two hours later I stopped, and that was it."

McFerrin never looked back. His second album, *The Voice*, was recorded live and a cappella and the offers started pouring in. Grammy Awards were soon cluttering up his front room: three for Best Jazz Vocalist Male, and another for his contribution to the soundtrack of the film *Round Midnight*.

There's a curious irony, however, in McFerrin's crossover to pop chart success with "Be Happy", because the treatment not only ignores his unique strength but also disguises his real voice. Lifting and reggae-tinged, "Be Happy" is undeniably McFerrin's most infectious concoction but, by overdubbing all the parts so that his voice effectively becomes a vocal ensemble, the urgency of his dynamic live solo performances is lost. Also, by delivering the song in a modified Jamaican accent, McFerrin has denied the pop audience access to his real voice for the moment.

McFerrin seems not to care. He has chosen the moment of his greatest commercial success to quit performing, and intends to spend the next two years composing vocal music. "I'd like to write a purely vocal opera, some dance and theatre music, a film score."

The next few weeks will be fascinating. McFerrin's record company, EMI Manhattan, will be piling on the pressure to make him follow up "Be Happy" with live shows, videos and a new single.

McFerrin grins engagingly. "It confuses them when I turn down interviews or television shows because, although I want my product to succeed, I won't do absolutely anything for it. I won't sacrifice my sanity, my creativity or my health. The product cannot be the big picture because, if you don't have me, you don't have any product."

## TELEVISION

## Ripping yawns

"Jack the Ripper! It's a new-man's dream!" shouted an oily little journalist in *Jack the Ripper* (ITV). Yes indeed, and a television man's dream too: the sequel of the Victorian East End, grisly brutal murders, rumors of scandal in high places and a case still involved after a century. But danger lurks, especially if you happen to be held in the vice-like grip of an international co-production deal for prime time television. The knife is hanging over you: you may miss million-dollar sales if you transgress the boundaries of good taste. You cannot show the real horror of the Ripper's disembowelling murders, so you have a few off-camera screams and blood on the floor. You cannot explore too realistically the grime and gloom of poverty in Whitechapel, so you make do with a set that looks like a scrubbed-down left-over from *Oliver*.

You are also a bit tied down as regards the plot. For international television it would not do to have anyone very ordinary committing this crime. Might he have been a member of the Royal Family stalking the streets? Might he have been the sinister police surgeon himself? What about the eccentric royal psychic? Or the very actor who portrayed Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde in the contemporary theatrical hit?

This keeps you in bit part and cameo roles for deserving actors, and allows scenes at the highest level of government. But what about your star? Michael Caine as the invisible Jack would be rather a waste of his evident talent, so he plays Inspector Abernethy, hot on the case when he is not hot on the whisky bottle, effortlessly replacing Michael Caine roles we have known and loved.

William Holmes

**New Woman** NOVEMBER 1988

WHEN ONE OF YOU LOVES THE OTHER MORE (it CAN work)

DE-TOX DIET A fast fix for feeling fit

MATERNAL INSTINCTS Do they really make you a good mother?

THE DAY YOUR EX REMARRIES (and how it can tie you in knots)

Platonic friends or Potential? Which are you?

Why sulking is making a comeback

THE OTHER WOMAN SPEAKS OUT A frank (and honest) account

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## WEDNESDAY PAGE

## A parental slap in the face?

Professor Michael Freeman thinks it is time parents were made to stop hitting their children — by law, if necessary. Libby Purves met the man who has lit an explosive social fuse

Children are persons, not property... If it is wrong to hit persons, then it must also be wrong to hit children. If we are concerned to eliminate the evil of child abuse, we must ultimately accept that corporal punishment of children is child abuse.

These are calm enough words, buried under a mass of legal argument in a professional journal, but this week they were enough to cause a small explosion of alarm and dissent and saloon-bar argument, and thoroughly to upset the life of their author, Professor Michael Freeman of University College, London. To suggest that even parents should be prevented by law from striking their children, as he has done in the *Childright* magazine of the Children's Legal Centre, is still in 1988 a piece of social dynamite. On this issue, people both care and fear: slapping one's children is widely perceived as a basic parental right. Disagree, and the wolves are on you.

When I found the professor in his study at University College, I had the impression that a quiet academic life, usually interrupted by nothing more dramatic than a yellowing heap of old Acts of Parliament sliding gently off the desk to join others on the floor, had suddenly been transformed into the bewildering, razzmatazz existence of a media star. He had given eight interviews, to local radio since dawn, and replied, courteously to 14 press enquiries about whether he personally spanked his children.

"My daughter took one of the calls," he said. "She's 17, and rather bright. I'm afraid she said to the reporter 'Oh, don't you know, usually I dress up in leather and whip him'."

Meanwhile, out on the streets of Northampton, another radio station was doing vox-pop interviews on the subject of corporal punishment in the home. "They all said things like 'It didn't do me any harm, it won't do them any harm'. One man said that since the schools aren't allowed to hit kids any more, they have to get it somewhere, don't they?", and another woman said it must be all of 10 minutes since she last slapped her little girl, and you could hear her yelling at the child straight away afterwards. The interviewer asked me to comment on it, and it was very difficult.

Then a newspaper rang. "They asked my advice on where to go to find someone who thoroughly disagreed with me and approved of children being smacked," I suggested Brighton. There must be a few people there this week who think that. Professor Freeman, although alarmed by the onslaught of publicity, is clearly fighting his corner.

His call for a moral initiative against the hitting of children has perhaps all the more impact because of his entirely sober academic track record. He is a specialist in family law, particularly relating to children; was the first lawyer to write about violence in the home, and one of the first on the topic of child sexual abuse; his book *The Rights and Wrongs of Children* is widely studied. He also has a son and daughter, and disposed briskly of the morning's key tabloid question. "Yes, I did hit my own children on occasions, but it doesn't mean that I was right. I slapped them very occasionally, and very guiltily. But my wife and I never believed in corporal punishment, and never hit them in a ritualistic way, or threatened it; and certainly never hit them with any implement."

The interviewees in the street that morning had, with surprising frequency, mentioned sticks or belts, so the distinction is still worth making. Caning or belting in the home did not, as one might vaguely hope, die out some time in the Sixties.

While Freeman's first and simplest legal reform would involve an outright ban on hitting children with any instrument, he goes further. "I can quite see," he says, "that we could progress towards a point where ultimately any hostile physical act towards a child would be illegal."

Shaken out of my interviewer's composure, I asked: "What, even when he's biting you and won't let go? Would there be a clause

**'Yes, I did hit my own children on occasions, but it doesn't mean that I was right'**

covering reasonable force in self-defence?" and he beamed briefly with a lawyer's approval of a nice point.

"No, I am not talking about some sort of nightmare with social police interfering in people's lives, taking away children and imprisoning parents. I am talking about re-education and stating a principle. The point is that the time is ripe, now, for a change of attitudes towards children and their rights. There is a degree of outrage when you suggest that striking children in the home should be illegal; but do remember that there is a long history of British outrage about all reforms."

The Earl of Shaftesbury, who brought children out of the mines and factories, opposed com-



Children's rights campaigner: Michael Freeman says we treat children like the fridge or the car — "things which we can kick if they go wrong"

pulsory education on the grounds that it interfered with parents' rights over their children; the 19th-century feminist movements opposed the Infant Life Protection Act of 1872 because it would "interfere with domestic arrangements."

"The middle-classes always think that the way things are is the way they always were and must stay; but the truth is that many attitudes have changed, and this is just another stage."

There are four reasons why he thinks this is the exact moment in history for us to reappraise our parental right to hit children. First, the elimination of corporal punishment in state schools, which set a precedent; second, the Nordic example, in which Norwegian, Swedish, Danish and Finnish children have won legal protection of this sort (although there are very few prosecutions); third, the current national attention to the subject of child abuse, "because this must lead to the question of where exactly we draw the line between punishment and abuse. I cannot but think that an awful lot of physical abuse is corporal punishment gone wrong. As to sexual abuse, I don't know; but I do know that in the context of schools, there is a link between sex and caning which is pretty well known."

Finally, there is a change which is "less easily acceptable to many people: it is that we are at last accepting in law the idea that children have some autonomy. We have passed beyond the mere idea of protecting children, to-

wards an idea of their having their own rights. One right is physical integrity, at any age."

This last moral and legal idea is the one which he expounded in the *Childright* article, drawing in diverse cases such as the Gillick judgment on contraceptives for under-age girls, where Lord Scarman established the principle that parental rights derive only from parental duty, and that therefore a child does not remain under parental control until any fixed age. "Once a child acquires sufficient intellectual and emotional capacity in relation to a particular matter, any parental rights on that matter expire, so that even if restraint would be reasonable in promoting the child's interests, it must nevertheless be unlawful if exercised against the child's will," Freeman wrote. It is not difficult to see how this could be applied to the subject of beating or spanking.

There is no clear statement of parental rights anywhere in our law: previously, British common law and the Children and Young Persons Act of 1933 have established only that anyone in lawful charge of a child or young person can punish him in a "moderate and reasonable" way. Judges have consistently upheld the right, even where there has been minor injury. Our record, in fact, is not bright. Freeman recalls with real anger and disgust the facts that cruelty to animals was outlawed in Britain 65 years before cruelty to children; and that the Bill to outlaw corporal punishment in homes for mentally and physically

handicapped children failed to get a second reading as late as 1973.

"I read of a limbless child in Scotland who was actually hauled on to a desk in order to be tawed. It made me want to spew. I am afraid the British are rather keen on beatings."

But since almost every parent has at some time slapped a child,

**'An awful lot of physical abuse is corporal punishment gone wrong'**

the idea of a total, legally enforceable ban seems at first sight extreme. A ban on canes, straps and sticks, perhaps; a ban on closed fists and blows to the head; but a ban on every exasperated open-handed slap? "Ultimately, yes, perhaps. But don't oversimplify what I am saying. The point is that culturally, we still tend to treat children as property, like the fridge or the car, things which we can kick if they go wrong. Throughout history, certain classes of people have been allowed to be beaten, by custom."

"Today, who can we beat? Not prisoners, not servicemen, servants, or women. Just children. This reinforces the idea that they are the possessions of their parents, rather than people with

rights. And in turn, this idea can lead on to abuse or neglect." Just as you can leave your bike out rusting in the rain if you want, you can leave your baby in the car alone for hours; hit the television when it crackles, hit the child when it cries.

"Legal change, even a government statement that hitting children was always wrong, would have an influence on changing that proprietorial attitude. After all, in a society where there is a breakdown of organized religion, people do take their moral cues from the state. And we currently have a government which has shown that it is not averse to social engineering of attitudes by legal means: if Mr Baker says that schools must have an assembly which instils a Christian ethos, that is social engineering by use of the law. "That is the kind of reform I have in mind, a reform of attitudes, not dragging parents off to prison. I am sure that historically, this is an idea whose time has come. In 20 years, people will be shocked by our attitude now."

The telephone rang again. Someone else wanting to know whether Professor Freeman ever hit his children; another representative of the defensive British parent. While he spoke, I had a grim misgiving: if slaps carried legal penalties, would not the alternative in many families turn out to be verbal lashes, terrible things said to only-too-credulous children in the effort to control them? He looked, for a moment, bleak. "Yes. Perhaps. There will always be cruelty."

BRIEFLY  
A round-up of news, views and information

## Upper-crust crafts

The Chelsea Crafts Fair, which opened this week at the Chelsea Old Town Hall in King's Road, is a far cry from the average village hall variety, featuring more than 200 exhibitors spread over two colourful weeks. Selected by the likes of Kaffe Fassett, the knitwear designer, and Tricia Guild of The Designers Guild, exhibitors are top calibre craftspeople. Several hatmakers in the exhibition, for example, design for Jean Muir, and there will be jewellery, shoes, knitwear, leather goods and objects d'art available direct from the makers at prices that cut out the middleman. Carole Waller will show her painted clothing, Victoria Brown her pea-pod hats and Ellie Yarnas the intricate dolls' houses which are actually perfectly scaled replicas of her clients' homes. Tickets are £2.50 for a single visit or £4 allowing entrance both weeks. The exhibition will be open from 10am to 8pm Monday to Saturday, and there will be daily fashion shows featuring the work of a growing band of male knitters, including the former bricklayer Kenneth Charles and the Bishop of Leicester.

## Quote me...



"We have a very open marriage in terms of being honest with each other. I think we've learnt to argue with each other in a good and very healthy way and that takes time in a marriage."

Kitty Dakakis

## Top of the toys

As Mattel's Barbie prepares to do battle with Hasbro's Maxie, and The Real Ghostbusters wipe the floor with He-Man and a host of high-profile TV-related children's toys, it is somewhat surprising that the winner of the Best Toy for 1988 award, announced last week, is the comparatively obscure Little Tikes range of activity and building sets. The Little Tikes name is not exactly a household word, but its large-scale plastic Waffeland Building Set (£29.95), Junior Activity Gym (£24.95), Party Kitchen (£29.95) and Big Table and Chairs set (£64.95) were especially recommended as toys of lasting value. The new edition of *What Toy?* — compiled by the Play Matters/National Toy Libraries team — should be available later this month from newsgroups for £1.50, or can be ordered direct from the publisher, CT Publications, 120 Dawes Road, London SW6 7EG (01-381 8855) for £1.50 including postage and packing.

Victoria McKee

## Repro furniture with an Empire line

If your taste in furniture runs to high-class reproduction, Harrods has just the thing for you this month: a sofa and chairs designed for a vicar, yours for only £13,500.

As the price tag suggests, this particular three-piece suite is no ordinary G-plan. Hand-made to order, from drawings originally made in 1929 by Sir Edwin Lutyens for the Viceroy of India, it is part of a range of Lutyens furniture now available after much burrowing in the RIBA archives by the architect's granddaughter.

It started when Candia Lutyens, aged 28, was looking

Designs by Sir Edwin Lutyens are being revived by his granddaughter

for fireside chairs for her London flat. She particularly wanted a pair of her grandfather's Napoleon chairs — so called because they were inspired by a chair he had seen in a painting of Napoleon. But only four were made — and none was available.

"My aunt had given hers to

the V & A, and was happy for me to copy it," says Candia, who works as a stockbroker with the firm of Robert Fleming. "But it was a question of thinking: hang on, it is really sensible just to make a pair of these things for oneself."

Designed to be sat on with a leg flung over one side, the Napoleon was Lutyens's favourite chair. But the original had horsehair both inside and out, which caused some problems for a modern replica. "When we first started making them, we insisted that every one had to have the black horsehair cover, but we couldn't get enough fabric to meet demand, so we've had to compromise a little," says Candia.

Inspired by the success of the Napoleon chair — which sells for £1,595 — Candia and her architect fiancé, Paul Peterson, decided to go into production with other designs. These include several straight-backed wooden chairs, a garden bench and an octagonal boardroom table first made in 1928.

Choosing colours for the New Delhi sofa and chairs — which come in a rather surprising pink leather, as well as a tasteful beige — involved some inspired guesswork. No contemporary photographs of the design survive — and it may, in fact, never have left the drawing board before.

Lutyens, who died in 1944, is best known as an imperial architect and the designer of countless monuments and country houses. But he also had a highly developed sense of humour, and could never resist a visual pun. Included in the Lutyens collection, on



On a family mission: Candia Lutyens in the Napoleon chair

show at Harrods until Saturday October 22, is a clock originally designed for Government House in New Delhi. The key on top is in the shape of a pansy — from the French *pensée* — so the owner would think to wind the clock.

There is also a dramatic art deco chandelier in chrome and pink-painted brass. "In my old flat it pulled the ceiling down, missing the television by six inches," Candia recalls, "and when they put it up at Harrods for the first time, it blew all the fuses."

Candia Lutyens's father, Robert, was an architect — he worked with Sir Edwin on his later houses — as well as a fashionable portrait painter. She never knew her grandfather, although she grew up surrounded by his work.

"My father died when I was very young, but I've always felt a very strong sense of family," says Candia, who makes no secret of her missionary zeal to give her grandfather his rightful place in furniture history.

Much original Lutyens fur-

## THE TIMES "AIDE MEMOIRE" &amp; WALLET IN QUALITY LEATHER

This wallet and "Aide Memoire" are a perfect, practical accessory for the working man or woman or, indeed, any individual who has a busy schedule. The wallet is smooth, finely grained navy blue leather with an inside back-lining in matching Moire Silk, and set off by four gilt corners. Complete with seven carefully positioned pockets for cash/credit cards and folds over with press-stud fastening.

The "Aide Memoire" is in matching navy blue leather with Moire silk lining to complement the wallet, gilt corners and a matching gilt finish propelling pencil (3 1/2" long) secured in a loop holder. Included are 50 sheets of sky-blue quality notepaper printed with The Times logo at the foot of each page. Both items are gold blocked with "The Times" on the reverse of the "Aide Memoire" and on the inside right hand side of the wallet. The "Aide Memoire" is 6" x 3 1/2", the wallet 9" x 4" (opened).

Both the wallet and "Aide Memoire" are made in England, and either item would make an ideal gift.

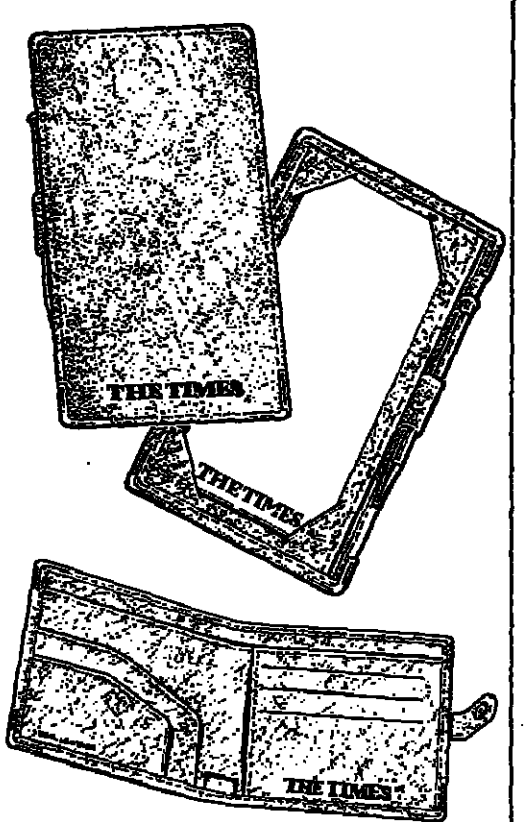
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# Aiming to please, aiming high

Airlines once regarded in-flight entertainment as an optional extra. Today, it has become an important part of their marketing strategy

In-flight entertainment is entering a new era. From next spring, passengers on all Richard Branson's Virgin Atlantic long-haul aircraft will be able to watch everything from rock videos to sport or documentaries on a multi-channel miniature video screen built into the back of every seat.

British Airways, which has just won an Executive Travel magazine award for in-flight entertainment, is testing a similar system. During the next four months, viewers on the BA test aircraft will be able to call up any of six specialist channels. If they get bored with *Clive James on Safari* on the travel channel they will be able to move at the flick of a switch to *25 Years of Bond* or Kiri Te Kanawa and Plácido Domingo singing opera. About the only thing passengers will not be able to do is freeze-frame the pictures or use fast-forward and back controls.

Multiple-choice video is only the first stage, Virgin says. Eventually passengers may be able to link into live broadcasts from satellite TV systems.

In-flight video — at present shown on communal overhead screens — is a rapidly developing market. Four years ago, according to the International Air Transport Association, 60 million people flew the world's air routes every month and 8.5 million listened to or watched some in-flight entertainment.

By the mid-1990s, it is estimated, the number of passengers will have doubled, but the number using in-flight entertainment facilities could have multiplied tenfold to 80 million a month. Many will almost certainly be watching not just the old, staple feature films but specially prepared video magazines covering everything from sport to nature documentaries.

One of the leading British companies in that business is Spafax Airline Network (Span). Although only three years old, it has captured British Airways' business as well as that of Singapore Airlines, the American carrier Northwest Airlines, and the charter line Cal Air.

Several of Span's top people came from television and they sell their service as a television station of the sky. They look carefully at the demographic breakdown of their prospective audience and try to tailor programme packages for that audience. If they can make an in-flight package that holds the audience they will in turn be able to deliver clearly defined viewers to potential advertisers.

On the BA service the company originally offered only one magazine programme but since BA started marketing its new business class under the banner "Club World", Span has created a programme for that market. Thus, since the start of this year there have been two programmes running simultaneously on BA planes — Screen One, a 60-minute magazine targeted at first and business class passengers, and Screen Two for the economy class passengers.

They are markedly different audiences, Nic van Zwam, Span's acquisitions manager for Spafax, says, comparing them to BBC2 and BBC1. "There's a higher proportion of men in business and first class than women. In economy it's fifty-fifty. In business and first class the age tends to be higher, the earning potential is obviously a lot higher and they tend to be more discriminating." That determines the programme menu.

"Without being snobbish in any way you tend to think that

perhaps ballet and opera are more appropriate in the front of the cabin than pop music is, and pop music is probably more appealing to those in the economy classes."

There are other subdivisions. Because more than 80 per cent of passengers on BA's London-Tokyo-London flights are Japanese a dual-language magazine designed for them (lots of fashion and golf) is run on the airline's Japan routes. As well as the magazines, Span provides

its programme material is bought world-wide, some of it from the BBC and the commercial television companies. So close is the Span service to a television-type format that it even provides British Airways with Independent Television News. Three times a day (four times on Friday) planes take delivery of edited versions of the news bulletins. A roster of television journalists operating in Brentford, 10 minutes from Heathrow airport, has the right to make editorial judgments on the news. For example, for obvious reasons they would cut news items such as air crashes or near misses.

"The 5am news is flown to New York on Concorde, so that the in-bound 10 o'clock flight out of New York, which is the first BA flight back to London, gets the 5am news," Jeremy Hunter, managing director of Span, says.

The news has advertising before and after it but it is the magazine programme that is the main advertising opportunity.

There are a number of sponsors in the magazine. The insurance broker Willis Faber sponsors a business segment, and Budget Rentacar, which wants to reach passengers coming to the UK, sponsors Sportscent, a world-wide update of sporting events and



previews of forthcoming events.

"We're very fortunate at the moment," Mr Hunter says. "There are no rules. There's no IBA telling us what we can't and cannot do in the air." Michael Perkins, who heads Span's American operation from New York, says the airline audience is very up-market. In the US it is the top 25 per cent of the population who are the travellers. About a third of the audience come from \$75,000-plus households which is about 5 per cent of the American population.

"At the end of the day the quality of the programmes is absolutely paramount in determining success or failure."

"To be successful we're going to have to upgrade the quality of the programme even further than we've done already. Eventually this is going to become more of a rating game and to be able to get those people to watch we're going to have to find programming that is different and stimulating and appealing."

"The multi-channel system is regarded as an exciting development. It will probably be some time before we see it on every long-haul aircraft. But it will come."

## Tailoring the movie in the air

Newcomers to the in-flight feature-film business often think they are in for an easy ride when they arrive at the offices in Slough, Berkshire, of Trans Com Systems, one of the leading suppliers of feature films to the airlines. Yet it is not a case of slipping into a viewing room, looking at the film and signing on the dotted line. The in-flight film is often a different product from the film of the same name showing in high-street cinemas.

The difference usually revolves around "offence". There are any number of ways that a captive and multinational audience can be offended, from bad language to the sexually explicit. From the airline's point of view, a passenger offended may be a passenger lost. So there is much editing before any feature film reaches an airliner.

Trans Com supplies more than 70 airlines, from companies such as British Airways and Air France to small ones such as Air Gabon, and handles more than 180 feature films a year, often in several languages. The potential for offence is enormous.

"The main negative issues are nudity, bad language and blasphemous words," Pamela Ryan, Trans Com's entertainment programming manager, says. "Violence is a tricky subject with airlines."

Religion and politics are also a problem. Airlines that cover many continents and would like to do business with more do not want to offend the host countries. That all makes difficult the choice of film, and editing.

"Nowadays, probably 95 per cent of the films are edited," says Pamela Ryan. In spite of so many films originating in the United States, American airlines are

often the most difficult to please. The American viewer, whose tastes have been trained by years of bland television, has a low tolerance for excess.

Trans Com circulates its clients monthly with details of forthcoming films from the big distributors.

A decade ago that would have been a very short list. Now, because films can be transferred to video and hired at low cost, makers and distributors consider it a crucial part of their business. Top feature films are often available to airlines within 90 days of American cinema release.

At that stage distributor,

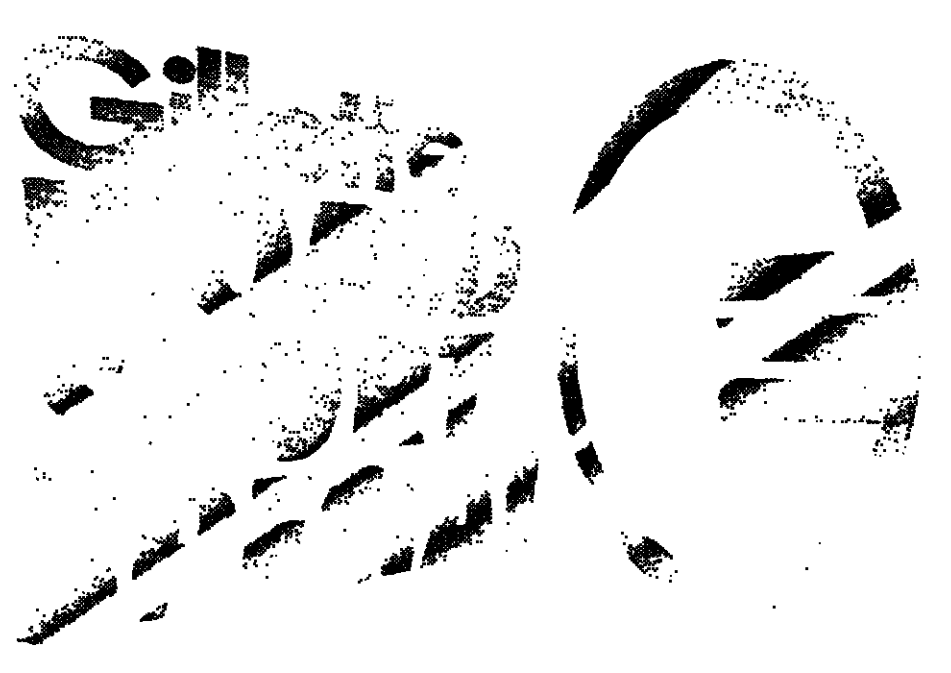
airline; and Trans Com's experts put their points of view about potentially offensive scenes. The distributors are now skilled at seeing where cuts should be made and, where finance allows, some film companies shoot, specially sanitized scenes for substitution.

Once edited, the authorized version is transferred to video, which is easier for the airline crew to handle than film. However, "there are certain actors and producers who won't allow any editing", Pamela Ryan says. Woody Allen is the most prominent. "Other actors such as Robert Redford and Clint Eastwood will allow editing, but they want to control it."

The 60- to 90-day video release rule can work in the distributor's favour. "It can often mean you have a European carrier playing that film at the same time as the theatrical release here, or sometimes even before it. It's good publicity, if somebody gets off an aircraft and tells his friends he's seen this great film."



Editing: Woody Allen, left, refuses, Clint Eastwood controls film.



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## FOCUS

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## Music while you fly

Steve Harvey remembers better than most people the day that Sir Freddie Laker's airline crashed. He and his partner Douglas Moffitt had set up In-Flight Radio a few years earlier and were leasing a small studio in a Soho mews, largely on the back of a promise from Sir Freddie that they could supply all his airline programmes, eight music channels.

Mr Harvey said: "We took on the lease of this building and the day we moved in was the day Laker went bust. It's the only time I've ever seen Douglas totally white-faced." Luckily they had other contracts and were close to clinching a deal with KLM. That helped them through a difficult patch.

Mr Harvey and Mr Moffitt, who is now financial director of LBC, the London commercial radio station, were both radio journalists when In-Flight Radio was born in May 1979. It was Mr Harvey who first had the idea for In-Flight Radio, a result of hearing a sponsored business programme on a flight to New York.

"I listened to it, was bored within about 10 minutes and suddenly thought I could probably do better than this." Back in London he contacted Sir Freddie and British Caledonian and suggested a "talk" programme presented by himself and Mr Moffitt. It would be monthly and have

Keeping the passengers happy with music is In-Flight Radio's job. But the idea nearly failed to get off the ground

news, interviews, features, competitions, and destination reports. A key element of the offer was that the package would be tailored to the requirements of the contracting airline. Until then in-flight radio programmes were "off the shelf". The same programme was available on, say, both Pan Am and British Caledonian - "like dressing stewardesses in the same uniform".

A decade later Inflight Productions - the name changed from In-Flight Radio earlier this month - works for more than 20 airlines, including British Airways, Virgin Atlantic and Cathay Pacific. Music now accounts for around 85 per cent of the airline that they supply.

The heavy emphasis on music is market-led, Mr Harvey says. "We've tried speech programmes, but the vast majority of passengers prefer to listen to music."

There is an element of nervousness in anyone who takes a flight, so the listener wants familiarity. "In-flight entertainment programming is not about setting new trends or breaking in new acts," he says. "It's about giving people the tried and tested music they feel happy with, music they

and it is difficult to change at the destination because it requires an engineer detailed for the task.

There are other constraints. On some aircraft the technology severely limits the number of channels. "We have requests from passengers for at least 20 different types of music, different types of programme and I'd love to be able to supply all of them but at the moment I've only got seven channels on which to put them," says Mr Harvey. "We are stuck with the technology of 1968."

Changing the technology would probably cost £250,000 per aircraft.

By and large, sound entertainment has fewer problems with tests. Unlike those who provide film and video, they do not have to scrutinise their material to make sure they are not causing offence.

Occasionally, they slip up. "We had a problem with Singapore when we tried to play tracks of Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band to coincide with the issue of the compact disc and the 20th anniversary. We discovered to our horror that all the tracks on Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band had been banned by the Singaporean government in 1967 because of their connotation... and they were still on the banned list. In the end, after we protested, they relented."



How to keep the party cheerful: Michael Aspel and Frankie Howard joke their way through an interview for In-Flight Radio

In-Flight is privately owned and will probably stay that way and remain small. "It's not a capital-intensive company," Mr Harvey says. "You don't need a vast investment in equipment... It's a company that relies on the skills of the people who work here."

## A comfortable read in business class

Every airline has its own in-flight magazine. The best known one in the UK is *High Life*, which is given away on all British Airways scheduled flights. It was launched by the writer and broadcaster William Davis in 1973 and is as much a reflection of his personality as the airline's. After a career as a City writer, he spent 10 years as the editor of *Punch*.

In fact *High Life* is rather like *Punch* in exile. It shares two things with the humour magazine - some of its best contributors, past and present, including Christopher Mar-

low and Sheridan Morley, and its terribly English attitude to life.

They may be writing about faraway places and exotic people, but you know that in their leisure hours they are listening to the cricket commentary on the radio, playing golf and reading detective stories. The mix works. The magazine is given away to a captive audience, so the circulation (275,000 a month) and readership (well over a million) do not tell you much, but the advertising does.

If in-flight magazines did not work, the big advertisers -

hotels, car hire companies, luxury goods retailers - would desert them overnight. *High Life* grows with five-star advertisers. The October issue, for example, as well as carrying ads for luxury items from Gucci, Armani and several Jersey-based banks, also has a couple of advertisements for the kind of powerboats and motor yachts that cost almost as much as the aircraft you are flying in.

"They come back because the advertising works," says Martin Vernon, managing director of Headway Publications, which produces *High Life* for BA. Steven Murphy, the advertisement director, says that about 50 per cent of all *High Life* readers are UK nationals. On European flights 66 per cent of all travellers are businessmen; on international flights they represent 50 per cent.

They are predominantly prosperous. "In terms of incomes I would say about 70 per cent earn in excess of £20,000 a year," says Mr Murphy.

The magazine's market research - and most of the other international airlines could probably claim the same - shows that 25 per cent of its business readers are board directors; that nearly 40 per cent of them always stay in first-class international hotels; and that as a group they are prodigious consumers of duty-free and luxury goods.

The editorial content of *High Life* is perhaps best described as "comfortable." It sets out to entertain, inform... and reassure. It is easy rather than treacherous reading. When Lord Chalfont walks around the Savoy Hotel, for example, he does not, as others might have been tempted to do, get into disputes on the kitchen table between the old Savoyards (personified by Sir Hugh Wastner) and the new (in the guise of Lord Forte).

He prefers instead to reminisce amiably about such people as the late F.E. Smith, the first Lord Birkenhead, who, he says, once stayed up all night at the Savoy, "sustained on a

spartan diet of Bollinger and oysters, to deliver at 8.30 the next morning an admirably brief legal opinion leading to a law suit which cost the Northcliffe Press £50,000 in damages, plus costs."

Writers in in-flight magazines leave you feeling that if life is not like this then it jolly well ought to be. The tone and the content of most in-flight publications is resolutely upbeat. They do not want to frighten or offend. Like in-flight radio, which provides a diet of popular favourites rather than taxing music, they offer the familiar and the reassuring.

The market potential still seems enormous. British Airways is now pitching hard for the business traveller and the drive involves another giveaway, *Business Life*, also produced by Headway, which started in 1986 and now has a bi-monthly circulation of 260,000. Next year, probably in the spring, another two titles will be launched, one for the Middle East market and the other in Japanese.

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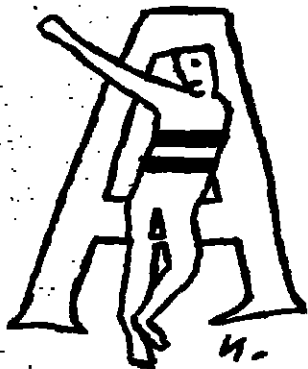
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## TELEVISION AND RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear  
and Greta Carslaw

## An alternative practice

TELEVISION  
CHOICE

● The creation of the barrister, Helena Kennedy, and a writer new to television, Peter Flannery, *Blind Justice* (BBC2, 9.00pm) is a series of five 30-minute dramas which take a less than flattering look at the workings of the British legal system. Peter Flannery has acknowledged the inspiration of G. F. Newman's *Law and Order*, another disenchanted view of British justice but one giving more weight to corruption within the police. As it happens tonight's first episode of *Blind Justice* has crooked detectives well to the fore, though they are only one of the ingredients in a complicated but cleverly plotted tale of drug smuggling which starts, intriguingly, with the arrest of a nun at Heathrow Airport. The story would be satisfying enough in itself but here it is used to point up the inadequacies of a system of law which is shown to operate more by deals behind the scenes than what takes place in court and makes an example of the tiddlers while the big fish go unpunished. Jane Lapotnik plays the defence barrister in the case, a radical in a conservative world. The drama is at pains to show her in the round, weeping tears, hitting the bottle after a particularly fraught day and carrying on a perfunctory affair with a taciturn toy boy. Not all of this convinces and if the comparison is to be further extended, it must be said that *Blind Justice* never quite manages *Law and Order*'s gritty realism. There is a tendency to caricature, as in the portrayal of "Lily" Langtry, the vicious and unfeeling judge played by Charles Gray. But these reservations apart, *Blind Justice* gets off to a strong start. The dialogue is often witty and the acting uniformly excellent. And the series will come into even sharper focus next week when the Lapotnik character joins a kindred spirit (Jack Shepherd) in an alternative law practice.

● If *Blind Justice* is a fiction, *Crimewatch* File (BBC1, 9.35pm) is best described as a fact. It is a reconstruction, with actors playing the criminals and the police playing themselves, of the search for the murderer of Police Sergeant John Speed, shot dead during a routine inquiry in Leeds city centre in October 1984. The investigation lasted more than 2½ years and involved four police forces. It was the biggest police operation since the search for the Yorkshire Ripper. The police come out rather better than they did in *Blind Justice*. But you will need a video to see both.



Force of law: barrister Katherine Hughes (Jane Lapotnik) in a new series about current British justice (BBC2, 9.00pm)

Peter Waymark

## The great stage coach

RADIO  
CHOICE

● Stanislavski (Radio 4, 11.00am), Christopher Venning's and Teresa Collard's quick dash through the life, times, and methods of the Russian producer, actor, and teacher, does not quite bridge the mighty gap between Hamlet's do's and don'ts to the players and the advice Irving gave to his fellow actors at the Lyceum: "Speak clearly — and be human!" It took Stanislavski two whole books (published during his lifetime) and another two (issued posthumously) to explain his theories about theatre in general and acting in particular. Pity poor Venning and Collard, given only 47 minutes to make sense of the impact Stanislavski had on the theatre of his day. However, there is no need to lay on the pity with a trowel since they do not appear to have missed anything vital,



Stanislavski, the Russian method actor (R4, 11.00am)

whether it is Stanislavski's days as fledgling actor (he forgot what Hamlet said and consequently scribbled this confession in his daily log: "Words and gestures flow out of me with the rapidity of lightning"), his first contact with Chekhov (Stanislavski thought *The Seagull* monotonous and boring), or his co-founding with Danchenko of the Moscow Art Theatre and

the legendary productions that were to flow out of this great theatrical venture. When it comes to defining the teachings of Stanislavski, the documentary keeps its eye on the clock and has to settle for a form of shorthand. Thus we are told that, by codifying the technique of acting, Stanislavski taught actors that naturalness need no longer be drawn from thin air. The aim was to reach the inner nature of the role and unlock the actor's subconscious. Just a small step from this method to the Method at the Actors Studio in New York — a connection that is not part of this documentary's brief and is, therefore, not mentioned.

● Him and It (Radio 4, 3.00pm), Steve Walker's sharply comical cautionary tale, is about a fairyland which, though down to its last two spirals, still has ambitions to make our world an earthly paradise. The depopulation crisis is ingeniously solved.

Peter Davalle

- BBC1**
- 6.00 *Doctor Aid*
  - 6.30 *Leon Ernst in Triple Trouble* (b/w)
  - 7.00 *Breakfast Time* with John Stapleton in London and Jeremy Paxman at the Conservative Party Conference in Brighton, includes national and international news at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30; weather at 7.55, 7.56 and 8.30; and regional news and travel reports at 7.27, 7.57 and 8.27, 8.30 Regional news and weather
  - 9.00 News and weather followed by in the Making. A portrait of Ronald Lancaster, a housemaster and ordained priest whose hobby is making fireworks (r)
  - 9.30 *Conservative Party Conference*. The second day's proceedings include the debates on law and order, housing and energy. News and weather at 10.00
  - 10.00 *Children's BBC* introduced by Andy Crane begins with *Play School* (r). A preview of a new children's series 10.05 *Five to Eleven* with John Corring
  - 11.00 News followed by *Conservative Party Conference*. Further coverage of the proceedings in Brighton, includes news and weather at 12.00
  - 12.30 *Look, Starline*. Andrew Campbell, a former BBC Watch column, and his 15th century home in Wales (r). 12.35 Regional news and weather
  - 1.00 *One of a Kind* with Philip Hayton. Weather. 1.30 *Neighbours*. Scott tries to sell his car in order to solve his cash-flow problem. 1.50 *Knots Landing*. Abby wanders her scheming once again.
  - 2.30 *I've Got a Secret*. Game show. 3.05 *Leaves and Sherry* (r). 3.30 *Harold Lloyd in Swing Your Partner* and *The Five (b/w)*
  - 3.50 *Two by Two*. The fifth of Jerry Powell's 15 nature programmes
  - 4.00 *The Sparks* 4.20 *Beat the Teacher*. Quiz game presented by Bruno Brookes. 4.30 *Football*. Tony Hart's guide to better picture making. (Ceefax)
  - 5.00 *Newsround* 5.10 *The Time Story of Spitz MacPhee*. Episode five of the Australian adventure series 5.30 *Neighbours* (r)
  - 6.00 *Crimes of the Week* with Nicholas Witchell and Mike Smart. Weather.
  - 6.30 *London Plus*
  - 7.00 *Mogan*. The guests are Miles Copeland, Nigel West and Jerry Hall. Plus music from Tony Stone
  - 7.30 *Doctor Who*. Episode two of the four part adventure starring Sylvester McCoy in the title role in which the eccentric doctor does battle with his old adversary — the Daleks. (Ceefax)
  - 8.00 *Police*. A Party Political Broadcast on behalf of the Labour Party
  - 8.30 *News with Martin Lewis and Mike Smart*. Regional news and weather
  - 9.30 *Crimewatch File*. The Murder of Police Sergeant Speed. (Ceefax) (see Choice)
  - 10.00 *Sportlight* introduced by Steve Rider. A look back from the Horse of the Year Show, an assessment of Sweden's football team — England's first World Cup opponents; highlights of the rugby league World Cup final between Australia and New Zealand; a celebration of 40 years of motor racing at Silverstone; and a report from yesterday's annual golfing awards.
  - 11.45 *Weather*

- BBC2**
- 6.00 *Ceefax*
  - 6.30 *Daytime on Two*: the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984. An English teacher in France. 6.55 *For the very young* 10.00 *Exploring Aberdeen* 11.00 *Words and pictures* 11.15 *Warrior* 11.30 *Mathematical investigations* 11.45 *The life after death* 12.15 *Science* — horticulture 12.35 *A new exam* for 16-year-olds 1.00 *For people with learning difficulties* 1.20 *Pigeon Street* (r). 1.40 *Zig Zag*
  - 2.00 News and weather followed by *Storytime* (r)
  - 2.15 *Conservative Party Conference* includes the debates on green belt development, employment and social services. The commentators are David Dimbleby and Vivian White. Includes news and weather at 3.00 and 3.30
  - 3.30 *Flora and a review of A Fish Called Wanda* and a taster from the new Bond movie *Licence to Kill*. Presented by Barry Norman (r)
  - 6.00 *Def II* begins with *Mission Impossible*. Casey poses as a courier for a crooked politician unaware that the case also is carrying a bomb. Starring Peter Graves and Lynda Day George (r). 6.30 *Animation Now*. Animated film with a musical theme. 7.10 *Open to Question*. American Dr Jerry Sims is questioned on his Christian fundamental views. His eight million dollar crusade to protect moral values in the United States and his opinion of the presidential candidates
  - 7.45 *Conference Day*. Sir Robin Day interviews politicians at the Tory Party Conference in Blackpool
  - 8.30 *Police*. A Party Political Broadcast in search for a human side, solid gold statue of the Madonna buried on Cocos Island
  - 9.00 *Blind Justice*. (see Choice)
  - 10.00 *A Party Political Broadcast* on behalf of the Labour Party
  - 10.30 *Newsnight* 11.20 *Weather*
  - 11.30 *Nurses*. Janet Blinnin, one of the country's first Nurse Advocates (r). (Ceefax) Ends at 12.10am

- ITV/LONDON**
- 6.00 *TV-am* begins with News and The Morning Programme introduced by Richard Maury and Kathy Royston. 7.00 News followed by *Good Morning Britain* presented by Anne Diamond and Mike Morris; 8.00 *News* 8.00 *News and After* News which includes an item on plastic surgery for men
  - 9.00 *News*. Travel and general knowledge quiz. 9.30 *Thames News* and weather 10.10 *The News*. The Place... Mike Scott chairs a discussion on a topical issue presented by Judy Finnigan and Richard Maury includes, at 11.00, Fiona Armstrong on the investigation into the 11.15, what to look for when buying a microwave. Includes national and international news at 10.55 and 11.05
  - 12.10 *Afternoon*. For the young 12.30 *A Country Practice*
  - 1.00 *News at One* with Jon Snow
  - 1.30 *Thames News* and weather 1.50 *News* and weather 2.00 *News* and weather 2.10 *News* and weather 2.20 *News* and weather 2.30 *News* and weather 2.40 *News* and weather 2.50 *News* and weather 3.00 *News* and weather 3.10 *News* and weather 3.20 *News* and weather 3.30 *News* and weather 3.40 *News* and weather 3.50 *News* and weather 4.00 *News* and weather 4.10 *News* and weather 4.20 *News* and weather 4.30 *News* and weather 4.40 *News* and weather 4.50 *News* and weather 5.00 *News* and weather 5.10 *News* and weather 5.20 *News* and weather 5.30 *News* and weather 5.40 *News* and weather 5.50 *News* and weather 6.00 *News* and weather 6.10 *News* and weather 6.20 *News* and weather 6.30 *News* and weather 6.40 *News* and weather 6.50 *News* and weather 7.00 *News* and weather 7.10 *News* and weather 7.20 *News* and weather 7.30 *News* and weather 7.40 *News* and weather 7.50 *News* and weather 8.00 *News* and weather 8.10 *News* and weather 8.20 *News* and weather 8.30 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## Labour blow to schools reform

By Douglas Broom  
Education Reporter

The centrepiece of the Government's education reform package was dealt a blow last night by a Labour council's scheme to prevent schools which opt out of local authority control from owning their own premises.

In an announcement timed to coincide with the start of the Conservative Party conference in Brighton, Tameside Council in Greater Manchester said it had sold the freehold on one of its schools to a limited company.

Audenshaw High School, which has been sold to Tameside Developments Ltd, a company controlled by the council, was planning to become the first school in Britain to opt out.

Now the governors, who under the Education Reform Act would have been entitled to take over the school buildings and playing fields, may have to pay rent.

If the scheme is copied by other Labour councils it could endanger the opting-out plan.

Mr Roy Oldham, leader of Tameside Council, last night said: "We have acted because we saw the Education Reform Act as a possible backdoor method for the Secretary of State to privatise the assets of the ratepayers and the council."

"In the case of Audenshaw High School the land value would be equivalent to a 1.5 per cent rate rise."

The move appeared to take the Department of Education and Science completely by surprise and lawyers were looking into the legality.

The effectiveness of the scheme in preventing the first opting out appeared to centre on exactly when the Audenshaw School was transferred to the company.

Whitehall sources said if the school was sold before a ballot of parents endorsed plans to opt out last month the sale could be irreversible. A council spokesman refused to say when the sale had taken place.

Under the Act, which became law in July, local authorities will be compelled to hand over to the governors the land and buildings of state schools which opt out.

Tameside will argue that it no longer owns the land and buildings and therefore cannot hand them over. A spokesman said the council feared governors of opted-out schools would sell the land and buildings and move to premises outside the borough.

Regulations were introduced last year to stop local authorities selling off land and buildings belonging to polytechnics and colleges which are to become independent under the Act. The measures were not extended to protect the assets of schools.

Mrs Thatcher has said she hoped most state schools would opt out and Mr Kenneth Baker, Education Secretary, may be called on to explain why no action was taken to safeguard the reform.

## Paisley out after insulting Pope



The Rev Ian Paisley holding up his "Anti-Christ" banner in the European Parliament and hurling insults at the Pope as he begins his address

Continued from page 1 of all its regions". His wish, he said "as someone who comes from Eastern Europe", was one day to see the two halves of Europe joined. A united Europe should not be shut up in egoism, but accept various cultural traditions, welcome the foreigner and devote energies to the great task of Third World development.

Meanwhile Mr Paisley, outside the chamber, was describing how he had been "punched and hammered" by a group including a "little National

Front man" and Count Otto Von Hapsburg, who he described not by name but as "the last king of Austria-Hungary, I believe".

Other Euro MPs described it more as a bit of pushing and throwing his papers in the air. When asked what he had yelled in the chamber, Mr Paisley said that he had used Archbishop Cranmer's words, in the sixteenth century before he was dragged off and burnt at the stake.

"I said 'I reject the Pope as the Anti-Christ' — and they would have burnt me at the stake today if they could".

Asked if he didn't feel he had brought the House into disrepute, he answered that it was already in disrepute.

"This is a Roman Catholic-dominated parliament and it is Roman Catholic unity which controls the Common Market".

Pope John Paul II has faced many protests and demonstrations during his international expeditions from the Vatican in the past, from members of his own flock, from disgruntled feminists and Jews, and occasionally from the Rev Ian Paisley himself, whom he must be coming to regard as an old acquaintance (Clifford Longley writes). There has never been any indication that he was particularly disconcerted, except once in America when he was heckled by militant nuns.

Mr Paisley came to England during the papal visit in 1982, to take part in a protest demonstration in Liverpool. He was a member of small band of Ulster Protestants who had gathered to abuse the Pope but they were too far from the procession to be heard and suffered the ignominy of being blessed from the passing Pope-mobile.

## Conference sketch The clean sweep of moral values

Of course the question everyone at Brighton is asking is: Does she have the body search? Does Mrs Thatcher submit to the patting and prodding that the rest of us endure whenever we enter the conference centre? Opinion is divided. Some say there could be no exceptions. Others, that nobody would dare. But I can guess she will have been offered exemption but will have insisted on being treated like everyone else — and made a frightful do-do about it.

For I remember her of old. As a backroom boy when she was Opposition Leader, I was preparing the Shadow Cabinet Room — when in she sailed, hours early as usual. What happened next took us all by surprise. Without explanation, she kicked off her shoes, climbed on to the armrest of a leather armchair, and stood there precariously on tip-toes. Then she began running her fingertips along the top of a picture-frame. "It's the way a woman knows whether a room's been properly cleaned", she announced, chair wobbling violently.

Richard Ryder (then her Secretary, now an Agriculture Minister) begged her to come down. "The cleaners will do that", he protested.

She fixed him with a gimlet stare. "We are all cleaners, Richard", she said.

Mr Ryder was there for the agriculture debate this morning. Had he stayed for the debate on the inner cities, he would have been reminded once again of his party's Mission to Cleanse. "Who needs the Socialists' Nuclear Free Zones?" declared a delegate, "when Nottingham has a Little Free Zone?" Those of us to whom the idea of banishing nuclear worries by a policy of energetic street-cleaning was unfamiliar, gasped at the simplicity.

But there was more to be cleansed than litter. A delegate from Scotland, of Presbyterian demeanour reminding one of those men in ties who call minivats at your home to sell religion, told the conference that massive resources should be committed to "a regeneration of moral values". Quite how Mr Tony Newton, to whom the debate was addressed, was supposed to undertake this challenge remained unclear until the speaker explained that, swooping "from the moral high ground", we must clear the streets of slot-

machines. I've never actually been to the moral high ground. The view must be terrific. One picture an Alpine scene (but without cow-pats) where Mrs Thatcher and John Gummer picnic on alcohol-free wine. It must be such fun that really one wonders why they come down to visit us, on the moral low ground, at all.

But there she was, floating six inches above her seat as a delegate told her, voice trembling with excitement, how "there are times when our Party just... just transcends ordinary politics." The Prime Minister, who also transcends ordinary politics, and almost everything else, gazed especially transcendently at us all. Only once, when Party Chairman Peter Brooke remarked that "Chris Proust" (Tory leader in the European Parliament) "has a difficult job", did I fancy a thin smile to play on her lips.

Mr Brooke made a good speech. Indeed, so good that a delegate and I turned to each other and said, simultaneously: "I wonder who wrote that?" After the obligatory references to the Brighton bomb (they're playing that shamelessly) and the swipe at Ron Todd (an edict has clearly gone out that, with immediate effect, Tony Benn has been retired as Principal Menace), he launched into a series of hard-hitting one-liners.

But he sounds such a decent old stick that one no more supposes him capable of real harm than one supposes that Paul Channon, the Transport Secretary, who told us urgently that "we must release the spirit of enterprise", is capable of releasing a post bag full of only that could be said of the delegates. They looked like Moonies.

The sound system was the best, the lighting subtle, the decor pastel, the auto-cue discreet, the huge video-screens to either side of the dais, hypnotic. "We must lay the foundations of morality and build upon them with the cementation of citizenship," the Presbyterian droned, hijacking a debate on inner cities and demanding to be flown straight to the high moral ground.

"Look at the ministers," a delegate whispered to me: "They couldn't care less what we think." Heavens to Betsy, I hope he's right.

Matthew Parris

## Channon unveils plan for private roads

Continued from page 1 those with no idea of the conditions to be found there can believe that the existing communities alone, from their own resources, can rescue their environment and reverse the decline.

Mr Tony Newton, the minister responsible for the inner cities, called Mr Heseltine's ideas "over-simple".

Mr Teddy Taylor, a former Front Bench spokesman, accused the Government of having "failed the people" on law and order and called for the restoration of capital punishment.

That option disappeared for this Parliament after MPs voted conclusively against the idea earlier this year. Rank and file feeling in the Conservative Party is still strongly in favour. Mr Taylor, MP for

Southend East, told the Monday Club that many who had voted Conservative for the first time in 1979 had done so because they believed it would take a tough stance on criminality. Since then offences had soared.

Nothing would sicken people more than a party that made a lot of noise before an election and then watched crime rise to record levels.

Mr George Gardiner, MP for Reigate, said that Mr Hurd would have a hard task convincing delegates that crime could be curbed.

"He will point to all the new measures in this year's Criminal Justice Act, yet we have been taking new measures ever since we came into government. So why have crimes of violence shot up by nearly 17 per cent in the year

to last June, on top of previous increases?"

Yesterday Mrs Thatcher attended a private memorial service for the five Conservatives who died in the 1984 IRA bombing.

The conference gave an emotional ovation to Mrs Margaret Thatcher, wife of the former party chairman, when she arrived on the platform in her wheelchair.

Mr Peter Brooke, Mr Tobin's successor, told the conference: "This Conservative Government will never bow to terrorism".

There were sharp attacks on Labour's defence policy made yesterday from Mr Brooke and from Mr George Younger, Defence Secretary. Mr Brooke asserted that the Tories would run Britain through the 1990s as they had through the 1980s.

In other speeches both Mr Brooke and Lord Young of Grafton, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, attacked the vision of Europe presented by M. Jacques Delors, the President of the Common Market Commission.

Mr Brooke said: "It is because we are good Europeans that we cannot have a Europe built on sand — the sand of delusion."

"It is a delusion to believe that a Socialist superstate in Brussels would be more successful than a socialist nation state in Westminster."

British Rail said last night it hoped to identify the preferred rail route for a high-speed line from London to the Channel tunnel by early next year (Rodney Cowton, Transport Correspondent, writes).

The project is estimated to cost between £750 million and £1,200 million depending on the route and terminal selected.

BR will seek "pre-qualification bids" so that the board can be satisfied which bidders are able to finance such a project, and have the necessary expertise to carry it through. Formal bids will then be invited.

Mr Channon's approval for the £750 million scheme to modernize the Central Line was welcomed by London Underground.

The British Road Federation regretted Mr Channon had not put forward more detailed proposals for improving the road system. It welcomed his plea to see transport projects completed more quickly.

## Bank in drugs charges

Continued from page 1 illegal origin of the funds.

A total of \$32 million (£18.7 million) is alleged to have passed through the bank's hands during the operation.

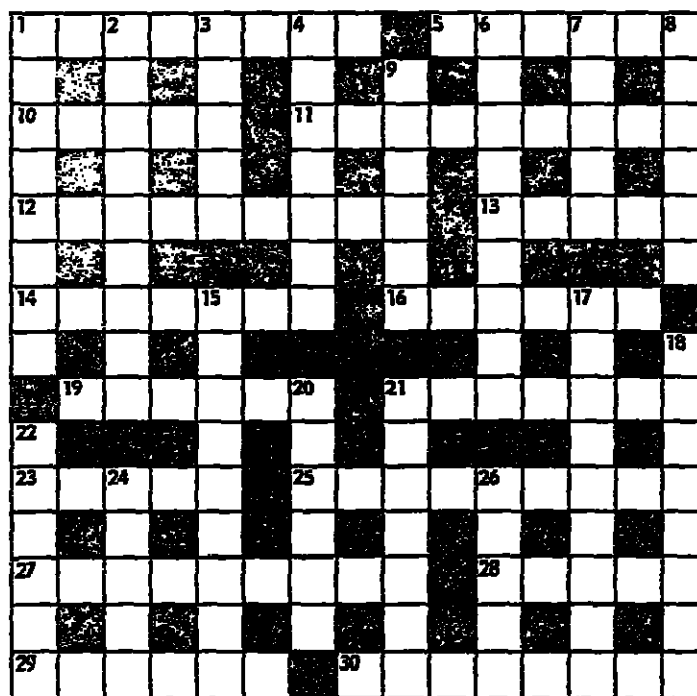
According to the indictment, the basic scheme turned drug money into certificates of deposit at BCCI branches in the US. Bank officials then allegedly created false loans at other branches, principally in England, France, Luxem-

bourg, Panama, Uruguay and the Bahamas, where the traffickers were permitted to withdraw the funds.

The bank is then said to have repaid the loans with the funds in the certificates of deposit.

Mr Brian Urwin, chairman of the board of British Customs and Excise, said: "International initiatives... add a new dimension to the investigative effort."

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 17,798



- ACROSS**
- 1 A source of divided views on the bridge (8).
  - 2 High-pitched instrument has been sounded (9).
  - 3 Trojan maiden spurs the mountain plant (5).
  - 4 Cement round catch in semi-circular window (7).
  - 5 Scurious officer, seen in all the right places (9).
  - 6 Stage parts for the avant-garde? (8).
  - 7 Core about right for the size of rope (5).
  - 8 Very slight irritation, but extremely touchy about it (6).
  - 9 Lucky like the face of a hag is, said Burns (6).
  - 10 Country where, say, it's all part of the service (9).
  - 11 Brutus's noblest feature? (5,4).
  - 12 Dispenser — the sort that sucks up (7).
  - 13 Ignominious result of contribution to the Mafia's Cosa Nostra (6).
  - 14 Moves swiftly to dodge boisterous fun (5).
  - 15 Northern song about many in the pits (5).
- DOWN**
- 1 Ban on articles about the Cloth (8).
  - 2 Apollo has engine cover as heat shield (3,6).
  - 3 Legislator has to take action about motorists (5).
  - 4 Drunk used to being ejected (6).
  - 5 Theatre Royal, one day before getting new lease of life (8).

### WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

- HAMESCKEN**  
a. A Danish lollipop  
b. Assault in the home  
c. A piglet
- EXPLODITE**  
a. To dig out  
b. A former ally  
c. Exhausted, knackered
- HATCHEL**  
a. A small axe  
b. A back satchel  
c. An erect hair
- AXILLARY**  
a. Secondary or supplementary  
b. To do with wheels  
c. Pertaining to armpits

Answers on page 22, column 1

Solution to Puzzle No 17,797

ACROSS  
1. A source of divided views on the bridge (8).  
2. High-pitched instrument has been sounded (9).  
3. Trojan maiden spurs the mountain plant (5).  
4. Cement round catch in semi-circular window (7).  
5. Scurious officer, seen in all the right places (9).  
6. Stage parts for the avant-garde? (8).  
7. Core about right for the size of rope (5).  
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9. Lucky like the face of a hag is, said Burns (6).  
10. Country where, say, it's all part of the service (9).  
11. Brutus's noblest feature? (5,4).  
12. Dispenser — the sort that sucks up (7).  
13. Ignominious result of contribution to the Mafia's Cosa Nostra (6).  
14. Moves swiftly to dodge boisterous fun (5).  
15. Northern song about many in the pits (5).

### WEATHER

Belt of rain, heavy at times, from Northern Ireland across Scotland moving slowly north, with strong winds and extensive hill and coastal fog. To the south of the rain belt, brighter showery conditions, although some showers may be heavy and prolonged — possibly with hail and thunder in a few places. Outlook: Showers at first over most of the country — becoming dry with sunny periods.

### ABROAD

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
Aleppo	27/81	SE	100	
Amman	27/81	SE	100	
Baghdad	27/81	SE	100	
Bombay	27/81	SE	100	
Buenos Aires	27/81	SE	100	
Calcutta	27/81	SE	100	
Cairo	27/81	SE	100	
Colon	27/81	SE	100	
Hong Kong	27/81	SE	100	
London	27/81	SE	100	
Madras	27/81	SE	100	
Mumbai	27/81	SE	100	
New Delhi	27/81	SE	100	
Paris	27/81	SE	100	
Rangoon	27/81	SE	100	
Seoul	27/81	SE	100	
Singapore	27/81	SE	100	
Tokyo	27/81	SE	100	
Yokohama	27/81	SE	100	

### AROUND BRITAIN

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
London	27/81	SE	100	
Manchester	27/81	SE	100	
Birmingham	27/81	SE	100	
Cardiff	27/81	SE	100	
Edinburgh	27/81	SE	100	
Glasgow	27/81	SE	100	
Liverpool	27/81	SE	100	
Nottingham	27/81	SE	100	
Sheffield	27/81	SE	100	
Southampton	27/81	SE	100	
Wolverhampton	27/81	SE	100	

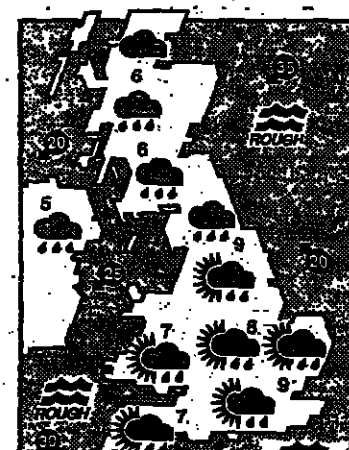
### HIGH TIDES

Location	Time	Height
London Bridge	12.15	12.15
Aberdeen	12.15	12.15
Amman	12.15	12.15
Baghdad	12.15	12.15
Bombay	12.15	12.15
Buenos Aires	12.15	12.15
Calcutta	12.15	12.15
Cairo	12.15	12.15
Colon	12.15	12.15
Hong Kong	12.15	12.15
London	12.15	12.15
Madras	12.15	12.15
Mumbai	12.15	12.15
New Delhi	12.15	12.15
Paris	12.15	12.15
Rangoon	12.15	12.15
Seoul	12.15	12.15
Singapore	12.15	12.15
Tokyo	12.15	12.15
Yokohama	12.15	12.15

### THE POUND

Country	Rate
Australia	2.22
Canada	2.22
Denmark	2.22
France	2.22
Germany	2.22
Italy	2.22
Japan	2.22
Netherlands	2.22
Spain	2.22
Sweden	2.22
Switzerland	2.22
USA	2.22
Yugoslavia	2.22

### AM



### PM



### LONDON

Yesterday's Temp: max 6 pm to 8 pm, 13C (55F); min 6 pm to 8 pm, 7C (45F). Humidity: 6 pm, 65 per cent. Rain: 24 hr to 6 pm, trace. Sun: 84 hr to 6 pm, 1.5 hr. Star: moon seen level, 8 pm, 100.2 million, falling. 1,000 million = 23.65C.

### MANCHESTER

Yesterday's Temp: max 8 am to 10 am, 13C (55F); min 6 pm to 8 pm, 7C (45F). Humidity: 6 pm, 65 per cent. Rain: 24 hr to 6 pm, trace. Sun: 84 hr to 6 pm, 1.5 hr. Star: moon seen level, 8 pm, 100.2 million, falling. 1,000 million = 23.65C.

### HIGHEST & LOWEST

Location	High	Low
London	12.15	12.15
Manchester	12.15	12.15
Birmingham	12.15	12.15
Cardiff	12.15	12.15
Edinburgh	12.15	12.15
Glasgow	12.15	12.15
Liverpool	12.15	12.15
Nottingham	12.15	12.15
Sheffield	12.15	12.15
Southampton	12.15	12.15
Wolverhampton	12.15	12.15

### LIGHTING-UP TIME

Location	Time
London	6.44 pm to 6.51 am
Manchester	6.44 pm to 6.51 am
Birmingham	6.44 pm to 6.51 am
Cardiff	6.44 pm to 6.51 am
Edinburgh	6.44 pm to 6.51 am
Glasgow	6.44 pm to 6.51 am
Liverpool	6.44 pm to 6.51 am
Nottingham	6.44 pm to 6.51 am
Sheffield	6.44 pm to 6.51 am
Southampton	6.44 pm to 6.51 am
Wolverhampton	6.44 pm to 6.51 am

### YESTERDAY

Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
London	27/81	SE	100	
Manchester	27/81	SE	100	
Birmingham	27/81	SE	100	
Cardiff	27/81	SE	100	
Edinburgh	27/81	SE	100	
Glasgow	27/81	SE	100	
Liverpool	27/81	SE	100	
Nottingham	27/81	SE	100	
Sheffield	27/81	SE	100	
Southampton	27/81	SE	100	
Wolverhampton	27/81	SE	100	

Information supplied by Met Office







## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

## Melville Group joins SE with £43m tag

The Melville Group, Britain's biggest exhibition contractor with interests in housebuilding and the manufacture of aerosol-filling equipment, comes to the stock market next Tuesday via a placing by Barclays de Zoete Wedd, with a £42.92 million tag. The placing price of 120p gives an historic price earnings multiple of 11.10 and a notional gross dividend yield of 4.67 per cent.

The roots of the company lie in a 1983 demerger of the private building group, John Lelliott (Holdings), which left its former finance director, Mr Edwin Bisset, as chairman of Melville. He and his family trusts are raising £1.8 million from the placing, which takes in almost 35 per cent of the company, while retaining a 33 per cent stake. About £9.5 million will come in as fresh funds, while £4.6 million will go to existing shareholders.

## Rosebys to seek listing

The merger of the soft furnishing retail interests of Rosebys and Cattle's (Holdings), to be known as Rosebys, is expected to seek a stock market quotation by June 1991. Rosebys will pay Rosemore up to £2.6 million for its Waldmans chain, with an initial consideration of £1.5 million due on completion. The chain will comprise 115 shops.

## TI Group in French buy

TI Group is buying Ropac, a leading manufacturer of mechanical seals in Paris, France, for £65 million (£6.02 million). Ropac's products are compatible with those produced by TI's John Crane division. It has sales of about £7100 million, and has some 100 employees. The deal is subject to approval by the French regulatory authorities.

## Norton in US buy

Norton Group, one of the legendary names in motorcycle history and now a company traded on the Third Market, has made its first move into the US with the purchase of a maximum of \$15 million (£8.57 million), of a company which imports and distributes carbon steel pipe fittings and flanges. It is buying Pro-Fit Piping Components, giving it a springboard into the US market, where the board expects a substantial proportion of its motorcycle and engine sales are likely to be made, said the chief executive, Mr Philippe Le Roux. Norton is offering 60 million of the shares, forming part of the consideration, back to shareholders at 10p each.

## Law Society recognized

The Securities & Investments Board has given full authorization to the Law Society to act as a recognized professional body under the Financial Services Act. The SIB has already recognized the Insurance Brokers Registration Council, and the Institute of Chartered Accountants. Six other professional bodies have also received interim recognition.

## Board moves at Celestion

Celestion Industries, the audio equipment and clothing distributor, is to have new management. Mr Daniel Preen, Celestion's president, has sold a 29.9 per cent stake to a group of investors including Mr Charles Ryder, who becomes chief executive. Mr Mark Lorimer and Mr Roddy McDougall, both consortium members, join the board.

## Salvesen talks on link

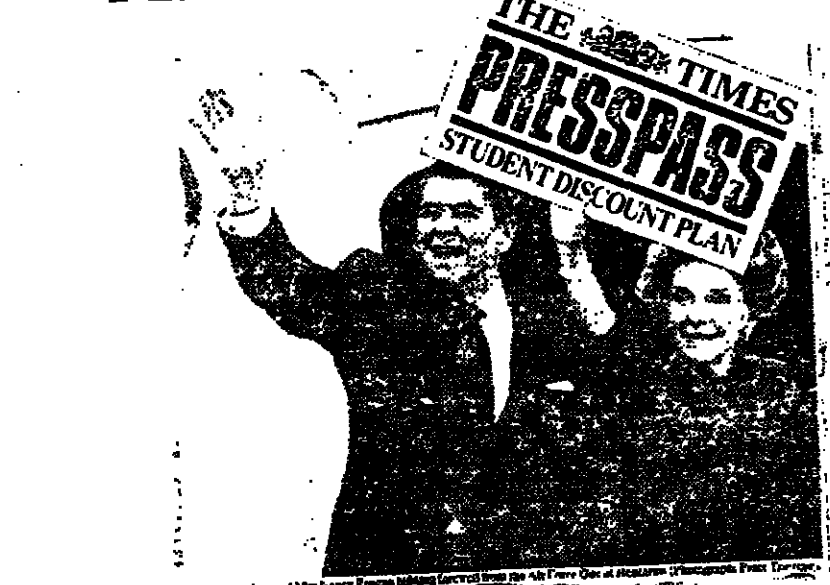
Christian Salvesen, the Edinburgh food distribution and cold storage group, is in talks with Markt- und Kuhlhallen, a West German group, about co-operative ventures and is also in separate discussions about acquiring a substantial stake in MUK. A company spokesman, who said the announcement had been made on the advice of its financial advisers to comply with Stock Exchange regulations, would give no further details.

The discussions, about the distribution of frozen food, were continuing and, meanwhile, the company was talking to important shareholders about buying a stake. MUK has a market capitalization of about DM100 million (£35 million).

## TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

First Dealings: October 10. Last Dealings: October 21. For Settlement: January 23. Call options were taken out on: 11/10/88. Allied Lyons, Sand Diffusion, London International Group, Regentcrest, Norton Opas, Bencos, Wharfedale, Mountbatten, B Matthews, Boddingtons, Lamborn & Howard, Gannaway, Brook Tool, Central Securities, Hickson International, Radio Cycles, Storrington.

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**THE TIMES**

## Papua stirs the golden pot

The Porgera gold mine, situated in the remote highlands of Papua New Guinea, traditionally the tribal lands of head-hunters, has assumed international importance in Minorco's £2.9 billion bid battle for Consolidated Gold Fields, the British mining finance house. COLIN CAMPBELL reports.

The setting of the Porgera gold mining project in the fabled head-hunting Enga province of the Western Highlands region of Papua New Guinea is, in a word, magical. Situated in the folds of Mount Waruwari at 2,500m (8,000ft) above sea level, and often cut off for days from the nearest mission of Mt Hagen when the mountain mists swirl, Porgera is potentially one of the richest and biggest gold deposits in the world outside South Africa.

In the first five years of operation, Porgera is forecast to produce 800,000 oz of gold a year at grades which mining experts rightfully describe as "fabulous". At its peak production, the mine will turn out 1 million oz of gold a year with silver as a by-product.

The native rock is so rich, and gold so evident, that a mantlepiece over the fireplace built of local waste rock in the mining camp sparkles with nuggets.

There is nothing quite like the landing strip at the site to concentrate the mind. The rough-hewn strip, the only alternative point of arrival to the dirt tracks through the rain forests, slopes at an angle of 20 degrees and is fraught with navigational difficulties.

What should have been a three-hour inspection visit to Porgera in 1987 was turned by

suddenly descending clouds and foul weather into a forced 24-hour stop-over before the chief pilot of the local charter airline could identify a safe passage through the clouds.

The mining area is surrounded by barbed wire which divides the mine property from the surrounding gullies where locals have traditionally scooped up gold-bearing rock in saucupans, and where overnight fortunes are made.

Talk of another massive nugget find spreads through the valleys like wildfire and leads to a stampede by local prospectors, and in turn, to urgent calls for police crowd control.

The language of communication between mine management and mine workers is pidgin English. The phrase for a helicopter is "mix master bilongs papa God". The local hotel at Mt Hagen is the "Plumes and Arrows Inn." Stories of earlier head-hunting days abound.

But whatever the environmental and mining odds, Porgera would be a jewel in any mining company's crown, and its eventual development promises rewards in their millions for its current shareholders.

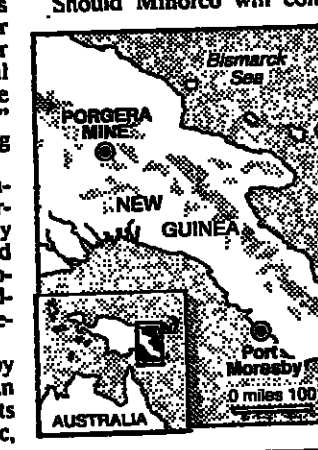
The project is operated by Placer Dome, the Canadian mining group, through its Australian arm, Placer Pacific,



Sitting on a gold-mine: Porgera is potentially one of the richest deposits in the world

with equal one-third shares held by the Australian mining group MIM and Renison (ConsGold's Australian associate).

Should Minorco win con-



rol of ConsGold, and therefore in turn ConsGold's 49 per cent-owned Renison Gold Fields, it would also be an indirect owner of Porgera.

It is this potential "South African" ownership that the Papua New Guinea government has threatened to block.

Mr Robbie Namaliu, the Papua prime minister, said in the capital Port Moresby on Monday that "we have international obligations and national laws that prohibit us from entering into trade and investment agreements with South Africa and South African multinationals."

PNG, whose two territories (Papua and New Guinea) were jointly administered by Australia until full independence was gained in September

1975, is situated in a region of the world romantically referred to as the Rim of Fire, which spreads from Indonesia to New Zealand. It is an area blessed with mineral deposits of copper, gold, silver, platinum and mercury, where the majority of the world's mining giants are exploring and developing.

Other PNG mining ventures include the Ok Tedi copper-gold mine in the Western Province with Broken Hill Proprietary as a shareholder; the Lihir deposit which forms part of BP Gold, and Bougainville, the copper-gold mine operated by CRA in which the British RTZ Corporation has a stake.

Porgera is a prize of which mining men dream.

## TEMPUS

## Australians' two-prong attack puts Redfearn in a tight spot

OVS, frustrated in its repeated attempts to have a say in affairs at Redfearn, despite a 29.9 per cent stake, has neatly turned the tables.

Stump up or give up, is the message from OVS, the quoted subsidiary of Pratt Group, the private company which leads the Australian packaging market, to David Newbelling, Redfearn's chairman, and the rest of the glass industry.

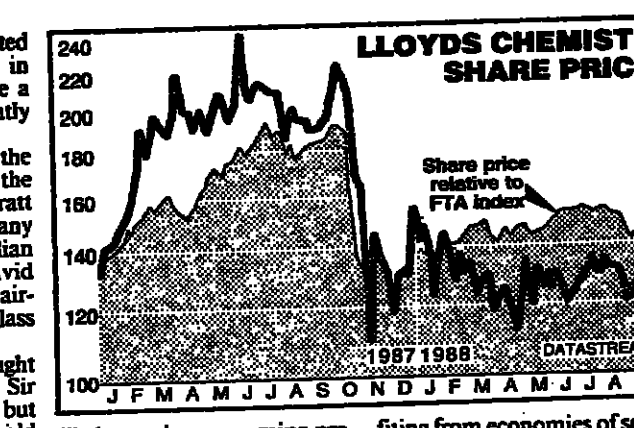
The Australians bought most of their stake from Sir Ron Brierley last January, but were promptly given the cold shoulder by an intransigent, if not over-successful, Redfearn board. Since then they have received numerous approaches for the stake or hawked it around to all potential buyers, depending on which story one believes.

No firm offer was ever made and now OVS has asked NM Rothschild to offer the shares for tender, at a minimum 520p each, the same price investors coughed up in June last year to finance its Flexpack acquisition. The sting in the tail for Redfearn is that if no offer materializes, OVS will itself launch a bid, at that price, for the entire company.

Early soundings in the market suggest there could be a scrap for the stake, but there must be doubts. Rockware, with 32 per cent of the market in which Redfearn has 14 per cent, is bound by undertakings to the Monopolies Commission, and United Glass, the other big player, would presumably face the same red light. That leaves the foreigners, such as St Gobain and BSN, but if they were keen they might have been expected to move before now.

Which leaves Mr Newbelling with a problem. He needs to find a rich friend, and quickly. If he cannot convince his friends that the shares are worth more than 520p, how can he dissuade shareholders from selling out? And the harder he looks without success, the more damage he risks doing.

At the sale/bid price Redfearn shares are valued at only about 12 times this year's



likely earnings, assuming pre-tax profits of £5.4 million. Hardly generous, but then Redfearn has not long clawed its way out of the deepest red. Two of the three divisions, including Flexpack, ran up losses in the six months to end-March, when John Pratt, the former chairman, was forced out.

Mr Newbelling has some fast talking to do.

## Lloyds Chemists

People still need tablets and toothpaste even if their mortgages are costing more, so Lloyds Chemists' 357 drug-store and chemist outlets should not suffer from cuts in discretionary spending.

But leaving aside this threat to retailers serving our less essential needs, Lloyds has plenty of scope for growth, especially in the fragmented chemist market.

Lloyds is the country's second largest chemist operator with 244 outlets, compared with Boots' 1,026. It enjoys a 12 per cent share of the market in terms of large operators, but taking the whole chemist market this dwindles to 2 per cent.

More than 90 per cent of Lloyds' chemist outlets have been acquired. This policy will continue, especially after the tightening-up by the National Health Service, restricting the number of greenfield operations which can be set up.

By imposing its proven management style and bene-

## Alexandra

The discerning, fashion-conscious workman should, if he does not already, buy his boiler suits from Alexandra Workwear as this fast-growing company can provide him with a choice of 22 colours in more than a dozen sizes.

Although the group's origins are firmly based on the provision of a core of working clothes, the range has developed over the years as employers become more aware of the importance of their employees' image as well as their safety and comfort.

The cost of refitting a workforce is small compared with refitting a shop or a factory.

The market for bespoke working clothes is growing, now approaching 22 million full-size items a year, up from 20 million a year or so ago.

Alexandra provides 28 per cent of them, having increased its market share from 25 per cent last year.

Service to the customer is the key to Alexandra's success, so around £2 million a year is spent on keeping manufacturing, ordering and dispatching systems up to the mark.

Selling from stock and 24-hour dispatch not only keeps customers happy but also maximizes Alexandra's flexibility and keeps it in touch with market developments.

The group has an operation in the Netherlands and is soon to open another in Paris. These are both supplied from the British manufacturing base. Alexandra should benefit from European trade barriers coming down in 1992.

Stocks at the end of the half year were worth under £10 million, marginally less than at the last full-year level. Gearing stands at 28 per cent.

The group is on course to make more than £6 million in a full year, placing the shares on a price/earnings ratio of 13.3 times given earnings per share of 12p. This rating is full but the quality and underlying growth of the business makes investment in Alexandra worth considering.

## Barclays joins in credit card war

By Richard Thomson  
Banking Correspondent

Barclays Bank yesterday announced that it had received approval to join Mastercard and Eurocard and plans to issue credit cards from these networks early next year. The bank already belongs to the Visa card network.

Barclays said the capacity to offer both Mastercard and Visa cards would increase choice. It was also a symptom of the growing competition within the credit card market. Barclaycard also plans to offer retailers a processing service for both kinds of card, simplifying the handling of transactions. To process Mastercards, Barclaycard will have to extend its Visa card processing.

Lloyds Bank was the first to join both credit card networks when it applied to become part of Visa last year. It is now planning to launch a Visa debit card next year to complement its Access credit card, which is part of the Mastercard system. Midland and National Westminster, both Access card operators, have also applied for membership of Visa and independent membership of Mastercard.

Although the banks are keen to emphasize the growing competition among card operators, high street retailers remain unconvinced. Mr Richard Weir, director general of the Retail Consortium, said: "We are really not sure what it all amounts to yet."

So far there was no indication that it would mean lower charges paid by retailers to the banks for credit card services. Nor was there much evidence that credit card holders were receiving a better deal through lower interest rates.

The banks are concerned, however, about the outcome of a Monopolies Commission inquiry into credit cards which is expected to be completed early next year. The banks are keen to refute the suggestion that there is no genuine competition.

## Liffe to share with SE

By Lawrence Lever

The London International Financial Futures Exchange and the Stock Exchange traded options market are to share a common system for matching and allocation of bargains as part of the first stage of increasing co-operation.

In addition, the two organizations hope to share a common trading floor within two to three years, a joint press conference was told yesterday, the first since the process of co-operation was announced last year.

"The hope is that we would like to come together on one floor," Mr David Burton, chairman of Liffe, said. Mr Geoffrey Chamberlain, chairman of the London Traded Options Market, said the Stock Exchange's trading floor had been considered but was not practicable because of the building's relatively old age.

A full merger of Liffe and LITOM, unifying the futures and options markets as in other countries, is still distant, if at all achievable.

The common system of trade matching to be used by Liffe and LITOM is called the Liffe Registration System and has been developed by Liffe. This means that the Exchange's own software system for matching options bargains will become redundant.

Both organizations are planning currency options products.

● The Stock Exchange is relaxing the rules for leading foreign quoted companies who want a London listing by requiring them to provide financial information for only three years instead of five.

## Savage trebles to £7m on expansion

By Martin Waller

Rapid expansion and 22 per cent organic growth boosted pre-tax profits at Savage Group, the DIY and hardware products company, to £6.96 million in the year to June 30, against just £2.31 million last time.

The figures were at the top end of the City's expectations, with analysts now forecasting between £11 million and £11.5 million for the current year.

A final dividend of 2p makes a total of 3p, up from 2.25p.

Savage spent a total of £28 million, almost £5 million of it deferred, on 10 acquisitions during the year, said Mr David Stephens, the finance director.

The biggest acquisition, a chain of French companies, would push the proportion of

sales from the Continent to more than 50 per cent for the first time this year, some 35 per cent from France alone.

The French operation should contribute more than £1 million to pre-tax profits, Mr Stephens added.

Further purchases were under consideration, although nothing was imminent.

Despite the high proportion of shares used to fund expansion, gearing had risen to 40 per cent, although covered almost 9 times by profits before tax and interest. Interest charges increased from £282,000 to £893,000.

The chairman, Mr Nick Savage, said the group's aim was to be an important supplier of DIY hardware products in Western Europe and expansion would continue.

## BT slims ready for world role

British Telecommunications is to merge its British Telecom Enterprises and International Products divisions into a new Communications Systems unit as part of its strategy to become a worldwide company.

Operating units in the new division will include BT Vision, Dialcom, Information Technology Systems, Mobile Communications, Network Products, Yellow Pages and BT's interests in Mitel of Canada.

The International Products division made an operating loss of £18 million on sales of £458 million in the year to March 31, 1988.

Mr Graeme Odgers, BT's group managing director, said the move would create products, systems and applications to support the British network

## Plaxton at £3.7m after takeover

By Our City Staff

Plaxton, the coach builder and car dealer which was the subject of a reverse takeover in April last year, has unveiled pre-tax profits of £3.73 million for the nine months to end-June and a first expansion move overseas with the purchase of a French company.

A change in the year-end to December 31 makes direct comparisons difficult, but in the six months to end-March the company made pre-tax profit of £1.82 million.

Mr John Houltham, smaller companies' analyst at Hoare Govett, the company's broker, is looking for about £4.5 million pre-tax for the 15 months to the end of 1988.

contract hire and leasing division about 10 per cent. The balance came from the coach building, servicing and repairs division.

The French acquisition, for a nominal sum, is from Iveco, the truck maker, part of the Fiat group. It covers Carrosserie Lorraine, based at Fourchambault in central France, which makes coaches and is only marginally profitable.

Iveco has guaranteed it will take a full three years' production from the factory.

Mr David Matthews, the chairman, said the group had made substantial investment on both development and staff training at the motor dealing side and on turning round the original Plaxton coach building business.



# BM lives up to City hopes with 74% leap to £8.84m

By Wolfgang Münch

BM Group, the Wilshire mechanical engineering company, unveiled a 74 per cent rise in pre-tax profits from £5.1 million to £8.84 million in the year to June 30. Turnover was up 52 per cent to £119.5 million. The results were at the upper end of market expectations.

Part of the increase came from the acquisitions in March of W&J Tod, a producer of glass-reinforced sonar domes, and Beazer Products and Services, which were both bought from Beazer for £47 million. They contributed

£1.44 million to profits. BPS now forms one of the group's three divisions.

Construction contributed £4.9 million to profit, a 29 per cent rise on last year, and Technologies grew by 113 per cent to £1.8 million.

Speculation mounted that BM may launch a hostile bid for James Neill, the hand and garden tool manufacturer, following the acquisition of a 4.78 per cent stake in September. However, Mr. Roger Shute, the chairman, said this was not a priority for BM. But he repeated his criticism of

James Neill's management, claiming the company was unable to exploit its "superb products." James Neill has said it is not for sale.

While City analysts argued yesterday that a takeover may make industrial sense for the BM Group, they remained sceptical about short-term financial implications. The market expects a bid, though not necessarily in the immediate future. James Neill's shares rose 1p to 23p.

BM had record orders in the first quarter. As a result of this and the contribution of the

recent acquisitions, Kleinwort Benson, the merchant bank and broker, predicts year-end pre-tax profits up 70 per cent to over £15 million with prospective earnings per share up about 11p to 33p on a fully-diluted basis.

There is a final dividend of 1.8p making a total of 3.0p (2.3p). Mr. Shute said the company intends to keep its dividend growth at between 25 per cent and 30 per cent. But this has been criticized for falling short of the current growth rate of earnings per share of about 45 per cent.

## Boots sells another 109 stores in Canada

Boots, the retail chemist and pharmaceutical group, is selling its chain of 109 drug stores in eastern Canada.

The business, with assets worth about £27 million, is being sold to Oshawa, a large Canadian group, for an undisclosed sum.

The move follows the disposal of Boots's loss-making chain of 61 drug stores in western Canada.

## £8m purchase by Holmes

Holmes Protection Group, the New York-based, London-quoted security systems group formerly known as Secus, is paying up to \$15 million (£8.7 million) for Dictograph Security Systems, a US supplier of residential electronic alarms.

Holmes is raising \$25 million through a private loan not placing due in 1994.

## Offer rejected

Plantation Trust yesterday urged shareholders to reject the 97p-a-share bid from CDFC Trust. In the defence document, Mr. Edwin Hadsley-Chaplin, chairman, said the offer represented a discount of 10.4 per cent to an estimated net asset value of 108.3p per share and fails to take account of long-term potential.

## SPS profit up

SPS Consultancy Group, previously known as Space Planning Services, reports pre-tax profits up from £286,000 to £381,000 for the year to June.

## Wyko buy

Wyko Group has bought J Jones Electric from receivers for £1,035,000 cash. Jones had turnover of £3.3 million in 1987 and at the time of the purchase had assets of £900,000.

## Unilever plan

Unilever is to buy Quality Packers, a New Zealand ice marketing company, from Lion Nathan, subject to New Zealand government approval.

## Coalite move

Coalite is offering to repay £2 million of 10.5 per cent debenture stock of its subsidiary Hargreaves Group at £104.50 per £100 so that it can reorganise its structure.

## Rainwear deal

Austin Reed Group is paying £800,000 in non-voting shares for Wright and Peel (Leicester) which makes rainwear.

## COMMENT David Brewerton

# Mr Ratner takes the Mickey out of market

Are-faced cheek has been an essential part of the success of Gerald Ratner with the family jewellery business. He was not afraid to turn his father's business on its head and did not flinch from dumping the old brigade at H Samuel very soon after Ratners acquired it, despite assurances that it would stay in place for a while.

The energetic cut-price jeweller risked a lifetime of City opprobrium by mounting a second rights issue while his first was still open, explaining that when a good deal comes along, it has to be nailed then and there despite the conventions.

Now he has broken another taboo by making another rights issue at a price far below the previous one. The latest Ratners exercise, to finance the acquisition of Zales, Collingwoods and Salisburys from Next, is at 175p, not much more than half the 310p at which the shareholders last dipped into their pockets to finance Mr Ratner's ambitions.

Mr George Davies of Next has wisely given up the unequal struggle to compete against Ratners in the popular jewellery market, as indeed we suggested he should a couple of weeks ago. But just what Sir Gordon Borrie and the Office of Fair Trading will make of the deal is another matter. Ratner himself recognises that the decision of the OFT is by no means certain, and has structured the deal so that, of necessary, the Salisburys (handbags and luggage) business can be acquired without the rest of the package. In that event, the rights issue will come down from a one-for-four to a one-for-seven.

## No cover from the storm

The cosy merger between Carless and Ryan International is looking more ill-starred by the minute. Its chances of survival at Friday's shareholders' meeting are now less than even. For Carless is being assailed by powerful adversaries on two fronts and all the lessons of history suggest that retreat may prove inevitable.

The first substantial blow arose when London Merchant Securities came off the fence and decided to vote its 27 per cent stake against the Ryan merger. The second came in the shape of a possible bid from the little-known Kelt Energy, but only on condition that the Ryan deal is thrown out.

Yesterday, the pressure intensified. LMS claimed that it has won over more support, this time from an offshore investment fund owning a further 8 per cent of Carless. It may well be that LMS has lined up further support which has to be cleared with the Takeover Panel before it can be publicly revealed.

Carless would be wise to assume that the LMS camp will represent nearly 40 per cent of the voting power available at Friday's meeting. Given the usual

The worry over an MMC reference is perhaps more Next's than Ratners'. By agreeing to the sale, Next has tacitly admitted that the Collingwoods and Zales operations do not fit, and if they are not bought by Ratners they will either remain an unwelcome part of the Next empire or will have to find another buyer. Not many other buyers would be able to match the Ratners price, because no others could generate the same benefits of scale.

Uncomfortable though Mr Ratner ought to feel about both another rights issue and a possible Monopolies Commission reference, he could not resist the deal, and it is hard to fault his enthusiasm. He picks up the three businesses for £165 million, against the £200 million he was looking at a year ago.

The scope for profit enhancement in the jewellery chains, where so much depends on buying strength, is massive while Salisburys gives his group another retail leg on which to take up the running. Salisburys will be moving into costume jewellery to compete head on with Next's remaining trinket business; but where Salisburys has 235 outlets, Next has 43.

The deal should be accomplished without earnings dilution and with Ratners on course for profits of £80 million pre-tax this year and perhaps £120 million next, the shares are cheap, even against the depressed retailing sector. The trouble is, Mr Ratner has not yet learned not to take the Mickey out of the market, even if it is in a good cause.

## Success for UK's first Ecu bills

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

The Bank of England's first tender of Treasury bills denominated in European currency units was four times oversubscribed, and analysts predicted a promising future for the new market in Ecu Treasury bills.

The Bank offered a total of Ecu900 million (£590 million) of Treasury bills for tender and received bids totalling Ecu3.4 billion. "I expected it to be over-subscribed but not by as much as this. It has gone very well," said Mr Richard Williams, analyst at Credit Suisse First Boston.

The biggest over-subscription was in the one-month bills, where Ecu924.5 million was received in applications for the Ecu200 million of bills on offer. Offers were accepted in a yield range from 6.88 to 7 per cent, with an average accepted yield of 6.97 per cent.

For the three-month bills Ecu1.73 billion of applications were received for Ecu500 million of bills. The average accepted yield was 7.18 per cent, and offers were accepted within a range 7.12 to 7.20 per cent.

On the six-month bills, Ecu743 million was received for Ecu200 million on offer. The accepted range was 7.06 to 7.30 per cent, and the average accepted yield was 7.27 per cent.

The Bank and the Treasury instituted Ecu Treasury bills partly in order to encourage the development of the Ecu - the currency of the European Monetary System.

## Alexandra tailors £3.1m half

By Alexandra Jackson



Paris in spring: Mary Prior, director with an eye for fashion

Alexandra Workwear, Europe's largest manufacturer and supplier of work clothes, increased pre-tax profits from £2.5 million to £3.1 million in the six months to August 13.

There is an interim dividend of 1.35p (1.1p). Alexandra's sales grew from £21.7 million to £26.3 million.

During the period the company opened two shops, in Dundee and Newcastle, and is to open a third in Bournemouth, making a total of 24, including one in Holland. An outlet in Paris is planned for next April.

Mrs Mary Prior, sales and marketing director, said: "We will develop a range of products especially for the French market, but these styles should also bring us advantages in our domestic market."

Alexandra was disrupted by the postal strike since it mails two thirds of its orders, but this is not expected to have a lasting effect.

While production has increased in Scotland, the company has scope for a further 30 per cent growth without investing in additional capacity. *Tempus, page 26*

## Peugeot boost for Britain

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

Expansion at the two British plants of France's Peugeot Talbot, which is set to achieve its four-year target of doubling local production by end-1989, is bringing a jobs and orders boost to component suppliers.

With Peugeot continuing to increase the British content of cars built at Ryton, near Coventry, and some assemblies also being constructed at Stoke-on-Trent, more than half the £280 million expected to be spent by Peugeot on

components next year will go towards British orders.

Peugeot has a 63 per cent local content, which covers all elements including labour, and this could rise to between 65 and 70 per cent even though transmission, engines and body panels come from France.

In two years the car maker estimates 3,000 new jobs have been created among its component suppliers, half in the past five months since a

second shift was launched at the Ryton plant.

On the strength of their Peugeot orders two French groups have set up factories in Britain. Valeo Heat Transfer has opened a £1 million plant at Redditch, West Midlands, supplying car heaters. And Plastic Omnium, a leading plastics maker, supplies Peugeot with blow-moulded petrol tanks and plastic bumpers from its £10 million Telford, Shropshire, plant.

## Buyouts boom by the billion

By Cliff Feltham

Who wants to be a millionaire? The answer: more and more British managers who are prepared to invest their life savings in running a business of their own, according to a survey published yesterday.

Despite last year's stock market crash, the number of management buyouts rose to a record 325 worth a staggering £3,188 million compared with £1,200 million in 1986.

Although there was a temporary lull after the crash, the

buyout bandwagon is now rolling again with 150 deals completed in the first half of the year and worth 80 per cent more than the 160 recorded in the same period last year.

The average size of a buyout is now £12.2 million, exceeding the £10 million level for the first time.

Dr Mike Wright, director of the Centre for Management Buy-out Research at the University of Nottingham, who carried out the survey, says the value of buyouts is

now running at £2,800 million and is likely to top last year's total.

Among the deals so far agreed are the management buyout of MFI from Asda and the break-up of the National Bus Company. Buyouts from state companies accounted for 11 per cent of the total buyouts so far.

But despite the widespread belief that managers opt for buyouts to secure more independence a member of the survey team admitted: "Most

managers do it for one reason, to make a lot of money. In fact, the institutional backers prefer that approach."

One casualty of the crash was the number of buyout companies forced to abandon flotation plans.

The number of buyouts floated last year fell slightly to 34 although they remain a significant element of the new issues market. In the first six months of this year they accounted for 17 per cent of all new flotations.

## Keeping his hand in

George Davis, the Next chairman, was a little reluctant to reveal the precise background to his £135 million sale, unveiled yesterday, of Salisburys and Zales to Gerald Ratner's ever-expanding jewellery chain. However, it can be revealed that the idea for the deal sprang from the fertile mind of none other than Roger Seelig, the ex-Morgan Grenfell corporate finance star, unceremoniously dumped by the bank in the wake of the Guinness affair. Nearly two years of thus-enforced self-employment and a series of charges arising out of the Guinness bid for Distillers have not, it seems, blunted Seelig's deal-making prowess. He conceived the strategy and tactics of the deal as well as bringing Gerald Ratner and George Davis together to agree it. Then again, Seelig's contacts in the retail field have always been - and still are, it seems - near legendary, including, of course, Sir Terence Conran, of Storehouse fame, who is, as it happens, one of the sureties for Seelig's bail, along with publishing mogul Paul Hamlyn.

## Tied up

Two silk bows donated by Mrs Thatcher are the latest offerings from more than 150 public figures who have given ties to be auctioned in aid of the Cancer Relief Campaign Fund at Bonhams this evening. Ties have also been given by Neil Kinnock, Sir Ian

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Buster stays at home

Christopher Sandland, company secretary of Young's Brewery in Wandsworth, tells me he missed his chance of doing a "Buster" and skipping to Rio with his case stuffed with used oucers when Nat-West wrongly credited the brewery's account with £5 million. "We expected an overdraft of £2 million, so when the bank told us what

our balance was we didn't take too much notice. But then we realised that the bank meant our account was £2 million in credit, and not in the red," he says in *Raw News*, his company's house magazine. Mathematicians may notice that there is a £1 million discrepancy in his story, but Sandland is still in this country...

## Soft soap

Sixty investment analysts, with their own personal cakes of soap in hand, were up bright and early yesterday morning, aboard a special Unilever train from London to Chester, from where they travelled by bus to Port Sunlight, the model village created by the first Lord Leverhulme for workers at his soap factory exactly 100 years ago. The analysts had been assembled to hear Unilever executives open their hearts and minds in a style not practised by the company before. Similar investor relations exercises are apparently to be staged in the Netherlands and the US in the first of a number of "getting to know you" programmes. Niall FitzGerald, group finance director, says: "It could be argued that in the past Unilever has not been as up-beat as some companies in its investor relations activity. We preferred conducting a programme on a one-to-one basis."

## Enforced diets

Barely 24 hours after Rowan Morgan, the stores analyst at Credit Suisse Buckmaster & Moore, resigned for a similar job at Shearson Lehman - as detailed in yesterday's City Diary - Credit Suisse has made one its specialist stores market makers. Bob King, an ex-Wedd Duracher man, redundant. With the continuing low stock market turnover and increased overheads being blamed, King was one of three Credit Suisse equity traders who were informed yesterday that their services were no longer required. The other two were Barry O'Connor and Ian Forbes, both of whom specialised in the food sector. The bad news was broken to them after Credit Suisse had taken the decision to pull out of market-making in brewing and food although it will stay in stores and electricals. George Lynne, group marketing director, says: "We have lost just three people from 60 in market-making. We will carry on in stores and electricals, the other two industrial alpha stock sectors in which we make markets."

● Paddy Ashdown, the Democrat's leader, has written to Trade and Industry Secretary Lord Young, calling for a referral to the MMC for Strong & Fisher's bid for Pittard Garnar. His concern is natural since Pittard is one of the biggest employers in his Yeovil constituency. But, given that it is surprising to note that he mis-spells it Pittard Garnar throughout.

Carol Leonard

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Name	_____
Title	_____
Company	_____
Address	_____
Postcode	_____
Telephone	_____
Type of business	_____
Annual turnover	_____
Send to: Griffin Factors Limited, FREEPOST (BR 623), Worthing, West Sussex BN11 1BR	
T/10/88	

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# Portfolio PLUS Accumulator

From your Portfolio gold card check your eight share price movements, on this page only. Add these up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily or accumulator dividend figures. If it matches or better, this figure you have won. Carry on or a share of the daily or accumulator prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Share Price
1	NMC Group	Industrials L-R	100
2	Lambert Horwath	Shoes, Leather	100
3	Caird Op	Property	100
4	Wolfschlaeger	Chemicals-Plas	100
5	Dowry	Motors, Aircraft	100
6	Macro 4	Electricals	100
7	Bridson	Industrials A-D	100
8	Arlington Secs	Property	100
9	Johnson (H)	Ships	100
10	File Indus (H)	Industrials E-K	100
11	Under Walker	Paper, Print, Adv	100
12	Citation	Industrials A-D	100
13	Capital Radio	Leisure	100
14	Attwoods	Building Roads	100
15	Concorde	Industrials A-D	100
16	Juliana's Hides	Leisure	100
17	Partfield	Industrials L-R	100
18	SA Breweries	Breweries	100
19	Memo	Electricals	100
20	Adreco	Newspapers, Pub	100
21	Carless	Oil, Gas	100
22	Howden	Industrials E-K	100
23	Macley (Hag)	Textiles	100
24	Brown (H)	Drugs, Stores	100
25	Laurin	Textiles	100
26	Carlton Comm	Paper, Print, Adv	100
27	Kwik Save	Food	100
28	Glynwood (a)	Industrials E-K	100
29	Kearney (A)	Industrials E-K	100
30	Stoddard	Textiles	100
31	Hunterprint	Paper, Print, Adv	100
32	Ash & Lacy	Industrials A-D	100
33	Douglas (RM)	Building Roads	100
34	Davy	Industrials A-D	100
35	Essex Gen	Property	100
36	Blue Circle (a)	Building Roads	100
37	Moundfong	Property	100
38	Storehouse (a)	Property	100
39	Robinson (Thames)	Industrials L-R	100
40	West Rubber	Industrials A-D	100
41	Norman Tons	Building Roads	100
42	Bridgford Op	Industrials A-D	100
43	Woodworth (a)	Drugs, Stores	100
44	Ualidair	Industrials S-Z	100
© Times Newspapers Ltd. Daily Total			

Please take into account any minus signs

## Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £8,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT

## BRITISH FUNDS

1988 High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

SHORTS (Under Five Years)	Price	Change	%	P/E
1	100	10	10	10
2	100	10	10	10
3	100	10	10	10
4	100	10	10	10
5	100	10	10	10
6	100	10	10	10
7	100	10	10	10
8	100	10	10	10
9	100	10	10	10
10	100	10	10	10
11	100	10	10	10
12	100	10	10	10
13	100	10	10	10
14	100	10	10	10
15	100	10	10	10
16	100	10	10	10
17	100	10	10	10
18	100	10	10	10
19	100	10	10	10
20	100	10	10	10
21	100	10	10	10
22	100	10	10	10
23	100	10	10	10
24	100	10	10	10
25	100	10	10	10
26	100	10	10	10
27	100	10	10	10
28	100	10	10	10
29	100	10	10	10
30	100	10	10	10
31	100	10	10	10
32	100	10	10	10
33	100	10	10	10
34	100	10	10	10
35	100	10	10	10
36	100	10	10	10
37	100	10	10	10
38	100	10	10	10
39	100	10	10	10
40	100	10	10	10
41	100	10	10	10
42	100	10	10	10
43	100	10	10	10
44	100	10	10	10
45	100	10	10	10
46	100	10	10	10
47	100	10	10	10
48	100	10	10	10
49	100	10	10	10
50	100	10	10	10
51	100	10	10	10
52	100	10	10	10
53	100	10	10	10
54	100	10	10	10
55	100	10	10	10
56	100	10	10	10
57	100	10	10	10
58	100	10	10	10
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80	100	10	10	10
81	100	10	10	10
82	100	10	10	10
83	100	10	10	10
84	100	10	10	10
85	100	10	10	10
86	100	10	10	10
87	100	10	10	10
88	100	10	10	10
89	100	10	10	10
90	100	10	10	10
91	100	10	10	10
92	100	10	10	10
93	100	10	10	10
94	100	10	10	10
95	100	10	10	10
96	100	10	10	10
97	100	10	10	10
98	100	10	10	10
99	100	10	10	10
100	100	10	10	10

## FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

1988 High Low Stock Price Change % P/E	1988 High Low Stock Price Change % P/E
1	100
2	100
3	100
4	100
5	100
6	100
7	100
8	100
9	100
10	100
11	100
12	100
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83	100
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86	100
87	100
88	100
89	100
90	100
91	100
92	100
93	100
94	100
95	100
96	100
97	100
98	100
99	100
100	100

## OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

1988 High Low Stock Price Change % P/E	1988 High Low Stock Price Change % P/E
1	100
2	100
3	100
4	100
5	100
6	100
7	100
8	100
9	100
10	100
11	100
12	100
13	100
14	100
15	100
16	100
17	100
18	100
19	100
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86	100
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90	100
91	100
92	100
93	100
94	100
95	100
96	100
97	100
98	100
99	100
100	100

## UNDATED

1988 High Low Stock Price Change % P/E	1988 High Low Stock Price Change % P/E
1	100
2	100
3	100
4	100
5	100
6	100
7	100
8	100
9	100
10	100
11	100
12	100
13	100
14	100
15	100
16	100
17	100
18	100
19	100
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66	100
67	100
68	100
69	100
70	100
71	100
72	100
73	100
74	100
75	100
76	10



[illegible]

## UNLISTED SECURITIES

[illegible]

## FOREIGN EXCHANGES

**Sterling index compared with 1975 was up at 78.4 (day's range 78.4-78.5)**

**STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES**  
 Market rates for October 11[illegible]

### DOLLAR SPOT RATES

and	1.4430-1.4540	Denmark	7.1250-7.1340	Italy	1378.0-1379.0
Anguilla	2.0392-2.0392	W Germany	1.8497-1.8507	Belgium (Com)	38.76-38.79
Antigua	2.6963-2.6963	Switzerland	1.9898-1.9898	Hong Kong	7.5155-7.5165
Australia	1.2461-1.2476	Netherlands	2.0850-2.0850	Portugal	152.00-152.00
Austria	1.2035-1.2075	France	6.3080-6.3080	Spain	122.35-122.45
Bahamas	6.3330-6.3360	Japan	190.75-190.85	Austria	13.00-13.01
Bahrain	6.5180-6.5230				

Rates supplied by Barclays Bank HOFEX and Exel.

## MONEY MARKETS

[illegible]

## INVESTMENT TRUSTS

[illegible]



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The BBC World Service is a major force in international broadcasting, transmitting over 750 hours of programmes each week in 30 languages including English. In the immediate future there are plans to develop existing output, increase audiences and compete vigorously with other international broadcasters for new audiences available through the use of satellite and cable technology.

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The role of Deputy Managing Director is wide ranging. In addition to deputising for the Managing Director, World Service, the Deputy Managing Director is the focal point for all World Service relations with the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (who administer World Service's Grant-in-Aid funding) and other government departments and public bodies. Other direct responsibilities include the World Service News Department, International Broadcasting and Research Department, and for training within World Service.

Applicants must be able to demonstrate substantial editorial and managerial experience at a senior level and will have positive, practical ideas for the development of the BBC World Service over the next decade.

Applications, giving full details, should be sent, in the strictest confidence, to Christopher Martin, Director of Personnel, BBC, Broadcasting House, London W1A 1AA to arrive no later than 24th October, 1988.

## BBC Television News & Current Affairs

BBC Television News and Current Affairs offers career opportunities for people wishing to join the programme teams responsible for its daily journalism.

These teams produce a round-the-clock service from Breakfast Time to Newsnight, including The One O'Clock, Six O'Clock and Nine O'Clock News, Daytime Summaries and Weekend news programmes.

There are vacancies at Senior Producer, Producer and Assistant Producer level. News and Current Affairs is currently undergoing a programme of expansion and development, and you will enjoy unrivalled opportunities to gain experience across the range of the BBC's journalism, and to develop your career accordingly.

## Senior Producers

Senior Producers are responsible for the preparation and transmission of daily programmes. You will lead editorial, production and operational staff, initiate and select programme ideas and see these through to transmission.

Thorough journalistic, production and editorial experience will be expected together with good political judgement and proven knowledge of news and current affairs.

Salary up to £25,288 plus an allowance of £652 or £1,114 p.a. (Ref. 7784/T)

## Producers

Producers are responsible for major complex news and current affairs coverage using all the techniques of television journalism.

You must have a high standard of editorial judgement and be able to supervise the work of production staff. You will also need journalistic experience and the ability to work at speed, under pressure.

Salary up to £22,374 plus an allowance of £652 or £1,114 p.a. (Ref. 7785/T)

## Assistant Producers

Assistant Producers (previously designated 'Sub Editors' in Television News) write and produce inserts for all daily television news and current affairs programmes. This involves a variety of techniques including research, script-writing, the selection and editing of films and video-tapes, the commissioning of graphics and the selection of interviewees.

Experience of professional journalism and the ability to write with accuracy, speed and style under pressure will be expected.

Salary up to £17,580 plus an allowance of £652 or £1,114 p.a. (Ref. 7786/T)

All posts based West London.

Contact us immediately for an application form (quote appropriate ref. and enclose s.a.e.) BBC Corporate Recruitment Services, London W1A 1AA. Tel. 01-827 5799.

Relocation expenses considered for permanent posts.

Published by BBC Corporate Recruitment Services, London W1A 1AA.

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Westworth House  
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**BROOK STREET**

## SKY MAGAZINE

BRITAIN'S LEADING STYLE MONTHLY

NEEDS AN

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In return we can offer you an excellent salary and bonus, five weeks holiday, a company car, and the satisfaction of building the success of this young title.

If you fit the bill send your c.v. in full confidence to:

Jerry Harris  
Advertisement Sales Director  
News International-Elachene  
Rex House, 4/12 Lower Regent Street  
London SW1Y 4PE

## GENUINE OPPORTUNITIES FOR A SALES CAREER

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You will probably be between 22-35 with some sales experience, although that may not be necessary. Above all you must have drive, personality and absolute determination to succeed. Our commission structure is designed to create realistic earnings of between £22-£45K per annum.

If you are ambitious and have the confidence to present at the most senior level then call Chris Humphreys or Julian Wildman on 240 1515.

## HIGH TECH PR EXECUTIVE

The Technology Division of Grayling, a top ten public relations consultancy, is looking for an enthusiastic account executive to work as part of a friendly team on leading accounts. Ideally the candidate will have two to three years experience in technical PR, have knowledge of the pc market and good writing and client contact skills.

An experienced computer journalist, would also be considered.

The position offers excellent opportunities for promotion. Salary is negotiable.

Please write, enclosing cv to John Jackson, Personnel Director, The Grayling Group, 4 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3RA. Or call him on 01 255 1100.

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## MEDIA &amp; MARKETING

## A change that isn't cricket

When the BBC announced its new channel, Radio 5, on Sunday, a chill passed over the land. Yes, it revealed blithely, a channel for sport and for school programmes - pretty good idea, eh? All right then, tune to the broad and crass channel in Autumn 1990.

And a nation holds its breath. What will happen to *Test Match Special*, the half-by-half commentary, the rain-drip-by-raindrop commentary, the cake-by-cake commentary? Is a change, a revolution, being considered? Say it ain't so, Joe.

The BBC played a dead bat to all inquiries. *Test Match Special* will remain unchanged until 1990 at least, it said. And after? Well, we don't know. Nothing is decided. You mean it could be changed? Well, yes. We might be able to say more in six months, but we don't really have to make a decision before summer 1991.

I fear for *Test Match Special*. Change, movement, evolution are irrefragable parts of life, but cannot *Test Match Special* be made immune? Can the programme not be given political asylum from a restless world?

Change is not so much good as inevitable, but change for the sake of change is one of the greatest demons in demonology. And it is a demon that haunts all sections of the media, the BBC in particular. It is all so easy to make a mark by chucking out something that works, something that has established a historical justification for itself. It is the way the inadequate leader seeks to establish a position. *Test Match Special* needs no alteration. Its very nature is that every single ball of every single *Test Match* is seen and discussed. Any alteration at all would destroy the programme, destroy its integrity. You cannot remove an arc from a circle without destroying the circle.

I do not believe that *Test*

## OPINION

Simon Barnes

*Match Special* is beyond criticism - though it was beyond criticism in the Arlott years: that wonderful voice is still as redolent of summers past as the smell of a newly-mown field. John Arlott was a genius, describing what he saw "as if for the blind man who was once sighted". This included, and more or less described, my late grandfather, who found great solace in *Test Match Special*.

He and I would often swap our favourite Arlott remarks. It was always the same conversation - it was a kind of ritual. He would play "Mann's inhumanity to Mann", and I would reply with "that ball went through Boycott's defence like a bullet through a hole in a Henry Moore".

With Arlott's retirement, *Test Match Special* has undeniably verged towards self-parody, with the self-consciously Wodehousian Johnston and Bielfeld, and Trueman doing his J.B. Priestley burlesque.

But while the programme is not immune from criticism, it should be immune from change. No argument about its audience figures, or its appropriateness to a changing world, or its potential clash with the education of the young, should be considered. *Test Match Special* is more than a programme: it is a tradition, a heritage, a responsibility. It is part of the fabric of the English summer.

If a programme could be measured, not in terms of audience numbers but in terms of audience love, then *Test Match Special* would be top of the charts every summer. To change the essential ball-by-ball nature of the programme would be an act of crassness. And from change for the sake of change, good Lord deliver us.

The author has been writing on sport for The Times since 1982.

## Libels and errors are a book publisher's nightmare, reports Kate Finch

W. H. Greenfield, the publisher of Norman Tebbit's autobiography, *Upward Mobile*, faced a publisher's nightmare when Sarah Keys took out an injunction over three offending lines.

But some quick cut-and-paste work removed the prospect of having to pulp it, and even got it to the launch on time. The solution was a "four-page cancel" over the weekend: the pages in question had to be cut out leaving two millimetres on to which the replacement pages could be pasted. The printers worked through the weekend day and night so that, by Monday morning, 750 copies could be ready for Tebbit to sign at Hatchards in Piccadilly.

Not all publishers are so fortunate. Robert Maxwell earlier this year forced Bantam to withdraw and pulp the hardback unauthorized biography of himself written by Peter Thompson and



Tebbit (centre) shares his book problems with (clockwise, from left) Read, Winchester, Maxwell and Kipling

Anthony Delano. He subsequently thwarted Bantam's attempt to get a revised version into paperback. The text had been changed to meet Maxwell's objections, but his lawyers said the new cover blurb contained a further potential libel. Bantam gave up, and pulped the paperback edition too.

Publishers usually succeed at the second attempt. Such was the case with Simon Winchester's *The Noble Lordships*, a highly unflattering account of the peerage published



Tebbit (centre) shares his book problems with (clockwise, from left) Read, Winchester, Maxwell and Kipling

by Faber in 1980. On the Friday before publication, Faber received writs from five peers. It emerged that Winchester's manuscript contained a number of mistakes. The first edition had to be recalled and pulped, although it was republished in a corrected form.

Sometimes a potential libel comes from the unconscious mind of the author. Piers Paul Read provided a celebrated case when he created the character of an unsavoury peer in his novel, *Pola-*



Tebbit (centre) shares his book problems with (clockwise, from left) Read, Winchester, Maxwell and Kipling

naise. Read believed that he was naming the character after the River Derwent which ran along the bottom of the garden of his childhood home. In fact, the real Lord Derwent had been a friend of his father. By the time the mistake came to light, the book was printed and ready for distribution. Lord Derwent, though understanding, insisted that it be shredded under supervision.

Biography has always caused difficulties. Lord Birkenhead's bio-

graphy of Kipling, written in the 1940s, was withheld from publication for more than 40 years because of objections from the family.

Libel is not the only problem. Penguin pulped a recent edition of a sociology book when it was found that the half the page numbers in the index were wrong. Occasionally, a book may be pulped for even more embarrassing reasons, as happened last year, when Virago discovered that *Down the Road: Words Inver*, a book of short stories about relationships between Asian girls in Britain, written by a woman called Rabeela Khan, was actually the work of the Rev Toby Forward.

"It happens every few months that a book is withdrawn," said Louis Baum, the editor of *The Bookseller*. "Pulping is an expensive option. Most publishers set prices on a multiple of five times production costs. So to pulp a book increases the cost by 20 per cent."

But libel represents the main threat. According to Matthew Evans, of Faber, "There are early signs that the American disease of lawyers' touting for business is beginning to happen here."

Consequently, British publishers are being forced to use lawyers in their own defence. "Forty per cent of our books are read by lawyers," said Matthew Evans. "Ten years ago we relied far more upon the judgements of editors. Now we have to be very much more careful."

## Fired with ambition

## When advertising executive Andrew Rawlins was sacked in his prime, he aimed for the glittering prize and won

as well as audio-visual. And yet, with developments like cable television, advertising needed to become more pan-European. There seemed a gap, so I decided to fill it.

The result was the Epica Awards, which, with a couple of helpers, he launched the same year from a basement office in the 16th Arrondissement. "We were surprised at the response," he says. "A total of 776 campaigns came in from 17 countries."

By analogy with the European Car of the Year contest, he put the judging into the hands of a team of journalists from the European advertising trade press. They chose a British overall winner (Boase

Massini Pollitt's TV commercial for *The Guardian* newspaper) and 28 other category winners. The surprise of the contest was a display of smooth creative footwork from Madrid, which won five prizes. "We were too successful," says Rawlins. The veteran Cannes Festival was watching the upstart newcomer. "They patted me on the back, offered to buy me out and informed me that they would launch their own European contest if

I refused." He refused. They launched an almost identical scheme. So now in addition to this year's Epica Awards ("approaching closing date, but we can still take entries"), there are the Euro Awards ("we could still squeeze some more in...").

The battle seems to be almost equal at the moment. Epica's entries, running at 36 per cent ahead of last year's, are about the same as those claimed by Simon Dagleish of Euro Awards, who says he has

"every major advertising agency in Europe".

The judges are in the middle of all this. The new Euro Awards use a hierarchy of agency people, with a sprinkling of journalists. But among the journalists who compose the entire Epica Awards judging panel is Paul Quarry of Campaign and Direction, who talks about the headaches and mental exhaustion which come from watching three hours of advertising in a French bedroom. "After about two hours anything that doesn't have an idea, that is to say anything that is style over content, immediately gets

nough. "It is very strange how the most crude stereotypes of

national characteristics do actually come out in their national advertising. For instance the French have a taste for the surreal, and there are so many children in Italian and Spanish ads. Children, sex and food seem to be linked all the time. The Scandinavians always seem to come up with one or two outrageously funny commercials, some of which are too risqué even to be shown on British TV."

Award ceremonies are planned for both prize schemes in the pre-Christmas days. The London-based Euro Awards will take over the Hippodrome nightclub in Leicester Square. Epica has plans for an event in Amsterdam or Brussels. And what if Andrew Rawlins's ex-employees win one of his prizes? "I shall be very happy for them," he says.

Julian Stevens

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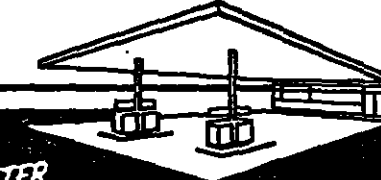
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247 4354

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BP Chemicals International has an attractive vacancy for a high calibre secretary at modern offices immediately adjacent to Victoria Station.

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We should like to hear from you if you are aged 25+ with a minimum of four academic 'O' levels - including English Language - RSA Stage II typing, and a shorthand certificate for 100 wpm. You will also need word processing experience or aptitude.

Our excellent benefits package includes:

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Application forms can be obtained from Mrs. L. Allison (Ref. REG. 1088) at BP Chemicals International, Balgrave House, 76 Buckingham Palace Road, London, SW1W 0SU.

Please telephone 01-581 6242 (answer phone service) or 01-581 6687 (for queries).

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WP experience essential

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This week's comp! - Bi-lingual

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- ☐ highly motivated?
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If you can answer 'yes' to all the above you could join us to assist two Sales Directors involved with selling to the oil industry.

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Successful sales and commercial understanding essential - together with confident telephone manner. Film industry experience desirable but not essential. W1 salary £10k neg. TEL 580 7518.

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Three very busy surveyors require a well spoken, well presented audio/wp secretary (27-28 years) to work for them in their lively SW1 offices. Typing speed of 65-70 and excellent command of English is a must.

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## RECEPTIONIST/SECRETARY

Rapidly expanding TV production and leisure company needs experienced outgoing person. Lots of initiative and good organisational abilities. Salary neg.

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The securities arm of a leading international bank needs a senior PA with management potential.

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## Temporaries Controller Dorking

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To ensure this professionalism is maintained, we now seek an enthusiastic and talented Temporaries Controller to be responsible for co-ordinating the movements of our temporary staff. Establishing a good rapport with local clients will also form part of your challenging brief.

Applicants should ideally have a background in recruitment, but more importantly, they should be able to demonstrate the personality and flair to succeed in a demanding and dynamic environment.

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All discussions will of course be conducted on a strictly confidential basis. Call Barbara Cresswell on (0306) 884499.

## CPL CONTACT PERSONNEL LIMITED

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To discuss this position further in confidence please telephone 01-831 1220

01-831 1220

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Please ring 491 3735

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Please contact Graham 01 748 4446  
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23-28

The young, outgoing Chairman of a City company is seeking a young PA/Secretary to work with him, and run his business and social life. You will need to be flexible to cope with ever changing deadlines, and able to work on your own initiative. He in turn sees you as the primary contact for clients, so you need to be confident and approachable, yet at the same time willing to use your secretarial and organisational skills (100/60). Benefits include free lunch, IPST, L, immediate BUPA.

Please Telephone 439 6477

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Development/Management Surveyor of Mayfair Property Company seeks a

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SALE ASSOCS

01-491 3644



• • • • •







## RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY

Huge Westminster scheme planned for homes, offices, shops and leisure facilities

## Car park worth £100m



Overlooking the Thames, and with St Paul's Cathedral as the backdrop, the Grade I listed building has one of the most enviable positions in the City of London. It is a block of nine spacious flats and two penthouses developed by the LEF Group and built by Richard Seifert & Partners, one of Colonel Seifert's rare excursions into residential property.

George Pope, of John D. Wood & Co, which will be selling the flats when they come on to the market next month, believes there is no City block of flats of comparable location or quality. The building is clad in Brazilian polished granite with Italian Travertine marble inlays, and each of the flats has a balcony. The three one-bedroom flats in the middle of

the building are priced at about £300,000, the six two-bedroom flats at about £650,000, and the two penthouses of 3,230 sq ft, at about £1.6 million each. They are expected to be bought mainly by City companies and institutions for visiting directors and as flats for chairman.

A two-acre site in the heart of Westminster, at present used as a car park, is to be transformed into a "state of the art" office, retail, leisure and residential scheme in a £100 million development by the Declan Kelly Group.

The group bought this prime site at Horseferry Road, close to Victoria station, from the Royal Mail for more than £25 million, and work will begin next spring.

For Declan Kelly, the chairman, it represents an exciting opportunity to make a contribution to the economic and social vitality of the Westminster community in an area where "not much has happened yet".

He is making every effort to

ensure that with this scheme it will.

Every one of the 223 apartments, which form the greater part of the development, will have a Parliamentary Division belt installed.

Mr Kelly believes the leisure centre, which will include squash courts and swimming, will prove a strong attraction.

Mr Kelly is confident that the apartments, "on the style of New York condominium blocks", will attract a high demand.

"The general situation in London, except for the Docklands, is woefully undersupplied," he says. "Much of the present accommodation is obsolete, and some developers do not supply

what the customer wants."

The scheme is due for completion in 1991, and is one of more than 25 under construction by the Declan Kelly Group with a total value of more than £300 million.

The projects include the Carlton Gate development of 582 houses and apartments on the site of the former St Mary's Hospital in Maida Vale.

Another huge project, which has just been given approval by Wandsworth Borough Council, is the £350 million Battersea Wharf scheme being developed and funded by Parc Securities Ltd.

Acquisition and construction costs are estimated at £270 million, and this mixed scheme will create more than 3,500 jobs.

There will be 230 apartments in three blocks, one of which will have terraces and balconies overlooking the river with views directly across to Chelsea and Fulham.

Another large group of apartments will look over Battersea Park, with diagonal views of the Thames.

Accommodation ranges from studio flats to five-bedroom penthouses, and a health club to serve the whole development is being considered.

The scheme is planned an "open community" of apartments, offices, a hotel, shops and restaurants, and the river frontage on this stretch will be opened up for the first time.



John Bowis: a welcome

The office blocks, one of them nine stories high, will provide about 400,000 sq ft of accommodation, and the four-star hotel will be six stories high.

Work will begin next March, and completion is scheduled for April 1992.

John Bowis, MP for Battersea, has welcomed the scheme for "the contribution it will make both in terms of job creation and the riverside environment".

Christopher Warman  
Property Correspondent

More property, page 43

## IN THE MARKET

Count Hall is one of Shropshire's most notable houses, built in 1704, and until this century owned by only three families. The Grade I listed house was built by Edward Cressett and designed by John Prince, of Shrewsbury, the architect who was later a surveyor to the Harley Estates in Marylebone.

It has now been split into flats, but most of the original rooms with their plastered, moulded friezes and ceilings remain, and it could well revert to being a private house. It has fluted Corinthian pilasters, a grand flying staircase installed at the end of the 18th century, and carved

frapices, panelling and stucco work.

The house is set in 129 acres, with a five-acre lake, a walled garden, a stableyard and cottages. The price is more than £1 million through Jackson-Stops & Staff's Chester office.

Shepherd Standing is a Georgian-style house on the edge of the village green adjoining National Trust land at Pinkney Green, near Maidenhead, Berkshire. The house, built in 1831, has four reception rooms, a master bedroom suite, four further bedrooms and a self-contained staff flat. The five-acre grounds have a heated

swimming pool, and an 18th-century barn and outbuildings, which can be converted, subject to planning permission. Strutt & Parker wants more than £750,000.

Lilly Mill at Sherfield on Loddon, Hampshire, was built by the 1st Duke of Wellington early in the 19th century as a working mill. It survived as a mill for only 20 years, and was then abandoned, later to be used for agricultural purposes. The mill stands by the river Loddon in a paddock of three-quarters of an acre, and there is outlying planning consent for a three-storey conversion. Robert Grange, of Drawatt Neate, at Hungerford,

which will auction the property next Tuesday, says: "We are giving a guide price of over £200,000, but the last two properties we have sold on the Stratford Saye estate have exceeded the guide figure by 25 per cent."

The charmingly named Little Bedside House at St Day, near Truro, Cornwall, is a late Georgian house in five acres including a walled garden and woodland. The Grade II listed house dates from 1810 and has two later wings. It has three reception rooms and a conservatory, five bedrooms, and a two-bedroom self-contained

cottage wing. The price is around £225,000 through Miller & Company, of Truro.

Two converted 18th-century houses alongside the Oxford Canal at Adderbury, near Banbury, with extensive moorings offering the opportunity of a small canal-side business, are for sale at around £385,000 through Bigwood and Clayton (Haseghood), of Banbury. The owners have renovated the two three-bedroom cottages and have created a two-storey gallery or art studio from another canal-side building, and moorings for five boats along the 300ft frontage.

PROPERTY BUYERS' GUIDE  
COUNTRY PROPERTIES

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# OVERSEAS PROPERTY

## Homely extras on the Costa

The emphasis in Spanish leisure home-purchase continues to focus on the facilities as much as on the property itself, so it is interesting that established UK house-builders are carving out what they see as a lucrative niche in second-home ownership.

Bovis Abroad is part of the Bovis construction company and a wholly owned subsidiary of the P&O Group, which recently acquired European Ferries. The latter is in turn owned by La Manga in southern Costa Blanca and for most of this decade has been developing the 1,200-acre La Manga club scheme, about 30 miles south of Alicante.

About 800 units, a mix of apartments, town houses and individual villas, have been built and sold at La Manga since 1981. Bovis is now to add 1,500 more during the next five to seven years, and has already launched its latest phase - Las Lomas, a purpose-built, self-contained village of an eventual 132 homes, valued at more than £15.5 million.

In essence La Manga is being developed as a series of self-contained villages, all of which have access to the estate's central facilities. The heart of La Manga is its hotel, which overlooks one of the two 18-hole golf courses and which has an adjacent clubhouse, pro shop and sports office. There is a second 18-hole course, with two more planned, a cricket pitch, riding stables and several swimming pools, bars and restaurants scattered throughout the estate.

The David Lloyd Racquets

Centre has tennis and squash courts, holds tennis clinics, coaching sessions and tournaments and also has a large swimming pool complex. The health club, seemingly mandatory these days, has a gym, a sauna and beauty clinics. None of these facilities comes cheap but everything is professionally organized.

Bovis's marketing campaign at La Manga is twofold - either selling plots of land on which the company will design and build a detached villa according to the owner's individual specification, or selling the studios, apartments and three-storey townhouses which make up Las Lomas.

The development is to be completed in three staged phases.

### Tall town houses with sunny staircases

The first 48 units are due for completion by June 1989. The studios are spacious. Some have terraces, all have fully fitted kitchens and bathrooms, and prices are from £47,500.

The one-bedroom and two-bedroom apartments all have balconies with a built-in barbecue, have a bathroom for each bedroom and are marble-floored throughout. The three-bedroom town houses are tall and narrow with sunny circular staircases, and most have two terraces.

The style at Las Lomas is traditional Spanish, incorporating variegated painted roofs, wrought-iron balustrades and

wooden shutters. A planned sports area will include a swimming pool, a children's pool, a paddling pool and a tennis court.

A commercial centre will include restaurants, shops and bars. Prices for the one-bedroom and two-bedroom units are from £77,000 and £106,500 respectively, while the three-bedroom houses are from £140,000. Furnishing packages to full rental requirements are also available, costing from £5,000. Two show units are open every day.

The costs involved in putting up a purpose-built villa are from around £330,000 for a house with three bedrooms and three bathrooms on a half-acre plot. This price includes a pool, landscaped gardens and a garage. La Manga's architectural department has house plans available, most of which have been vetted by the Spanish College of Architects. Full planning permission is normally obtained in about two months.

Richard Gower, La Manga's sales negotiator, says: "Option to purchase to completion date is normally about eight months and all prices quoted, including the properties at Las Lomas, are exclusive of local taxes and legal fees. Do allow a further 8 per cent of the purchase price for these."

La Manga now handles resales throughout the estate, taking a 10 per cent commission, and these properties range upwards from £40,000 for a small one-bedroom apartment at Bellaluz and from £60,000 at Los Altos. These are

two of La Manga's first purpose-built pueblos.

Details: Bovis Abroad, 62 Brompton Road, London SW3 1BW (01-823 8000).

The Wimpey Group - under Wimpey Leisure - has firmly established itself along the Costa del Sol with its Bena Vista. This follows the completion of the much smaller El Vivero apartment complex, above the Melia Don Pepe Hotel, just west of Marbella.

Wimpey's new scheme, the first phase of which is now well under construction, is being built on a 26-acre site on a gently sloping hillside almost next to the El Paraiso 18-hole championship golf course.

### Bank credit line open to buyers

This is well above Las Palmeras de Bena Vista, Wimpey's almost completed development, a mix of timeshare and whole-ownership properties. As Wimpey owns 83 per cent of the El Paraiso golf course, purchasers will be able to buy a vice-membership to the club for £5,000 for two people.

Balcon de Bena Vista will consist of 300 two-bedroom and three-bedroom apartments, penthouses and town houses. The first phase of 88 units has staged completion at Christmas. In February and next summer. Three show units are open. The first of several swimming pools is complete and the whole is designed in

typical Andalusian plaster style, complete with old pantries rescued from redundant Spanish farm buildings. Every unit has terracing, patios, balconies or gardens.

Owners are entitled to use all the facilities of Wimpey's tennis and bowls club, which is already well established at Las Palmeras.

Prices at Balcon de Bena Vista range from £73,000 to £109,000. Wimpey Leisure has arranged a line of credit for its buyers with the Banco de Bilbao in Gibraltar. Basically, up to 80 per cent of the purchase price, with a minimum loan of £15,000 can be financed over a maximum 15-year period at an interest rate equal to 1.5 percentage points over sterling base rate. The bank takes first legal charge over the Spanish property purchased as security, or for those wishing to buy through a Gibraltar tax-exempt company, Banco de Bilbao requires a pledge of shares of the company plus a personal guarantee.

A mortgage is issued subject to status, provided the potential purchaser fulfils the bank's essential criteria, and is offered only to properties in this instance built by the Wimpey group of companies. In addition, a mortgage protection life insurance cover must be obtained and assigned to the bank. Details: Wimpey Leisure, Springfield Road, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 2PJ (0403 56191), or Wimpey sales office, Estepona/KM167 Malaga, Spain (010 34 52 780259).

Diana Wildman

On the hill: the showhouse in the Balcon de Bena Vista development

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